ACTIVITY REPORT

2014 - 2015

OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

Front cover:

At nightfall, lampposts and potted plants illuminate the Parliament Building facade, showcasing the statues standing like sentinels.

Photo : François Laliberté, National Assembly Collection

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OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC

This publication was prepared in collaboration with the senior management and the personnel of all the administrative units of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise specified, the information in this activity report covers the National Assembly's activities from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to present the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec* for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. This report presents an overview of a year that was particularly marked by a general election, on 7 April 2014. The National Assembly welcomed 44 new Members, and for eight of them, this election marked their return to the Assembly after an interruption in their political career.

Right from the 1st Session of the 41st Legislature, on 20 May 2014, the Members unanimously did me the honour of re-electing me as President of the National Assembly for a third term of office. I thank them for placing their trust in me and assure them that I will fulfill my duties with the requisite impartiality.

Among the more noteworthy activities of the past year was the official visit of the President of the French Republic, Mr. François Hollande, who addressed the parliamentarians on 4 November 2014. During his visit, I had the honour of awarding him the President's Medal.

Furthermore, on a different note entirely, the Parliament Building's infrastructure improvement project was launched. We live in a world where the security issue has taken centre stage. This project therefore focuses on installations and security measures. It also aims to improve reception areas, access to visitors as well as services to committees, parliamentarians and citizens. It will include work to bring infrastructure up to standards, this work having become necessary to meet Members' needs, which have evolved considerably since the completion of the Parliament Building's construction in 1886.

The year 2014-2015 was highlighted by landmark dates that were underlined by the National Assembly. Thus, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec (association of former parliamentarians), the *Histoires de députés* exhibition was launched in May 2014. Subsequently, to commemorate the centennial of the beginning of the First World War, the Library set up an exhibit entitled *"Souvenirs de la Guerre 14-18, les collections de l'Assemblée nationale"*.

History is in the making day after day within our walls, and while the National Assembly plays an instrumental role in making history, it is also a witness thereof. That was again the case this past year. In addition to the exhibitions, a plaque was unveiled and placed on an exterior wall of the Parliament Building in memory of the victims of the May 1984 shooting: Messrs. Georges Boyer, Roger Lefrançois and Camille Lepage. An emotional ceremony was held in September 2014.

Lastly, I hope this report will allow you to fully grasp the scope of the work of the Members and the personnel of the National Assembly and help you become better acquainted with the exercise of democracy in Québec.

Enjoy your reading!

Jacques Chagnon
President of the National Assembly

A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Like the President, I am proud to present this 16th activity report, which provides an overview of parliamentary work and the achievements of the National Assembly during the past year.

The mission of the Assembly's administration is to provide all of the services and resources that are required by parliamentarians to support them in the exercise of their duties as legislators, overseers of the public administration and representatives of their fellow citizens. The General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, the General Directorate for Administration and the General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library are the administration's three main sectors.

Following the general election of 7 April 2014, the National Assembly launched a large-scale operation to welcome the newly-elected Members. Once again, administrative staff members made exceptional efforts to expeditiously provide the necessary services and tools to Members, both at the Parliament and in the constituencies, in order for them to begin their term of office.

Year after year, the Assembly's 700 plus staff members enable Members to perform their duties effectively, whether at the National Assembly, in the parliamentary committees or in their riding. We offer a variety of services. These range from the preparation, follow-up and broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings to the safety of persons and the security of buildings, through the management of human, financial and material resources, research and information services, telecommunications and computer services, as well as restaurants, visitor services and communications with the citizens, management of the architectural and documentary heritage, parliamentary diplomacy and many more. A review of the services offered has been initiated mainly to optimize and modernize support provided to parliamentarians.

Each and every member of our staff is important and contributes, through his or her talent, creativity and knowledge, to making our institution a Parliament that is open, modern and efficient, in the service of Members and the population. The members of this great National Assembly staff team form an invaluable resource on which MNAs can always rely, wherever they may be. I am very proud of this and, once again, express my deepest thanks and appreciation to them.

Michel Bonsaint
Secretary General of the National Assembly

Beginning of the 41st Legislature

The 125 Members of the 41st Legislature were elected in the general election held on 7 April 2014. This new Parliament officially opened when the Secretary General of the Assembly received the list of candidates declared elected from the Chief Electoral Officer.

On 20 May, at the opening of the First Session, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis, was re-elected as President of the National Assembly. Furthermore, Mr. François Ouimet, Ms. Maryse Gaudreault and Mr. François Gendron were elected as Vice-Presidents.

Visit of François Hollande

The President of the French Republic, Mr. François Hollande, was welcomed in the National Assembly Chamber on 4 November 2014, where he delivered a speech to the Québec parliamentarians and several guests. "Over and above our friendship, our history, our exchanges, I am here today in hopes of giving renewed impetus to our relations", he emphasized. Mr. Hollande also noted that culture is even more beautiful when it is expressed in French. During the ceremony, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, awarded him the President's Medal.

Launching of *Par ici la démocratie* website

User-friendly and up-to-date, the National Assembly's new tool box is a reliable source of information as regards history and citizenship education. Online since 27 August 2014, the *Par ici la démocratie* website echoes the National Assembly's desire to reach young people in educational institutions to acquaint them with the role of parliamentarians and democracy in society.

Par ici la démocratie is:

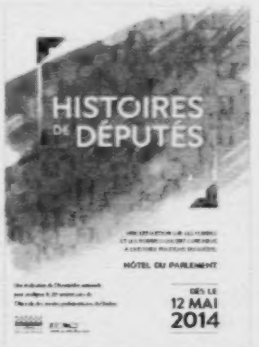
- A youthful and visually pleasing interface;
- A user-friendly pedagogical tool;
- Jargon-free and streamlined, free and modifiable content;
- A thematic, dynamic and original historical timeline;
- A personal space allowing users to pin articles, photos, maps and graphs;
- A portal showcasing the activities on education for democracy offered by the National Assembly.

In March 2015, this website received the "Mérite du français dans les technologies de l'information" award by the Office de la langue française.

Unveiling of a plaque honouring the victims of the 1984 shooting

On 18 September 2014, a moving ceremony marked the unveiling, by the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, of a plaque in memory of the victims of the 8 May 1984 shooting, which plaque was installed on an exterior wall of the Parliament Building. The names of the three victims, Messrs. Georges Boyer, Roger Lefrançois and Camille Lepage, are engraved in bronze. Some one hundred people attended the ceremony, including the victims' loved ones and Mr. Marc Jalbert, son of Sergeant-at-Arms René Jalbert. It should be noted that, by his courageous actions, Mr. Jalbert, now deceased, prevented the loss of many more lives. Mr. Chagnon underlined that the victims were killed while in the service of democracy.

New exhibitions: *Histoires de députés and Souvenirs de la guerre 14-18 : les collections de l'Assemblée nationale*



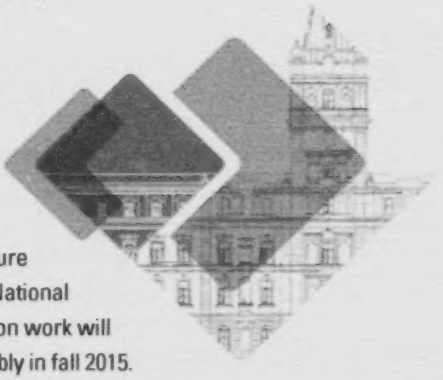
Prepared from National Assembly archives, two new exhibitions opened in 2014-2015. Inaugurated on 13 May and presented on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec, the *Histoires de députés* exhibition highlights the roles and responsibilities of Québec parliamentarians as well as their everyday lives at the Parliament.

An exhibition marking the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, *Souvenirs de la Guerre 14-18 : les collections de l'Assemblée nationale*, opened at the Library on 24 September 2014. This anniversary was underlined in various ways by several organizations across Québec, Canada and internationally.

Both exhibitions will be on display for National Assembly visitors again in 2015.

Infrastructure improvement project

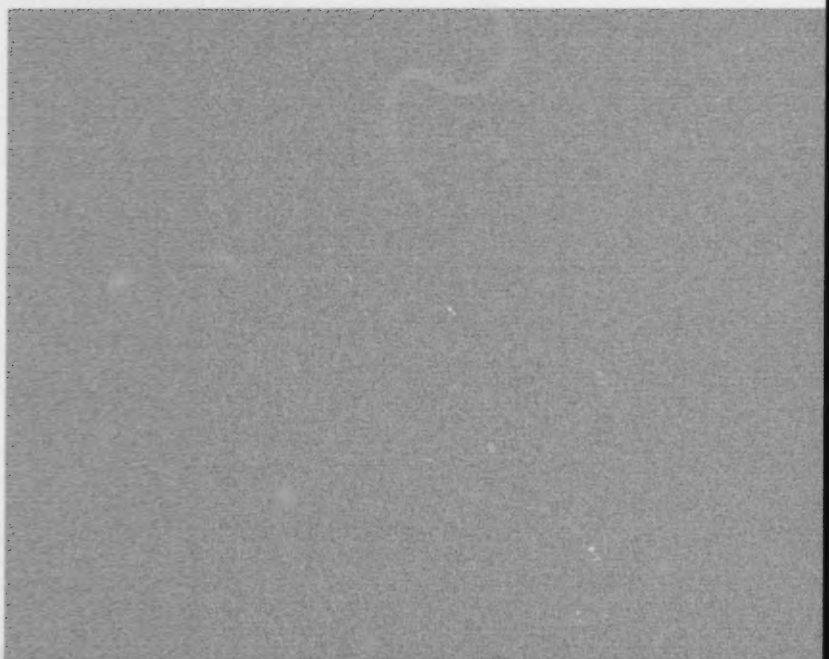
The world in which we live has changed considerably since 1886, the year that the construction of the Parliament Building was completed. The work of parliamentarians has greatly evolved and the number and nature of the activities that take place therein are quite different.



In terms of security, it is now obvious, in light of the tragic events that unfolded last fall at the Parliament in Ottawa, in particular, but also elsewhere in the world, that the security issue has become unavoidable, even within our parliamentary institutions.

It is for this reason that the Office of the National Assembly tasked architecture and engineering professionals to design the plans and specifications of the National Assembly's infrastructure improvement project. Continuation of construction work will be conditional on obtaining the approval of the Office of the National Assembly in fall 2015.

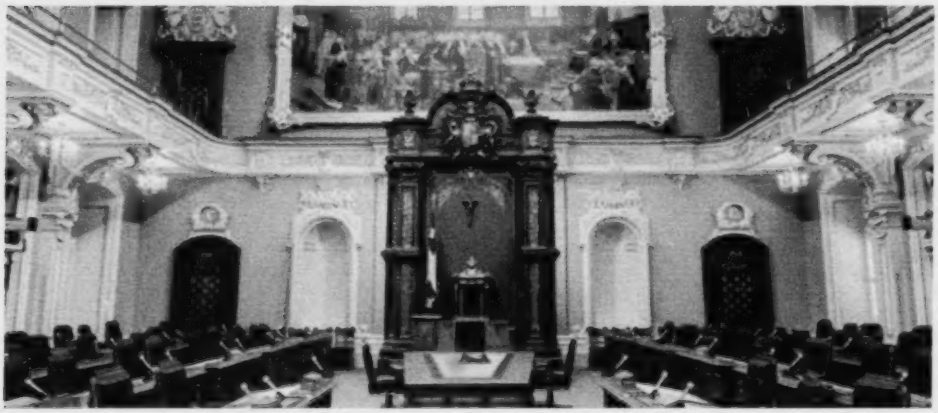
THE WORK
OF MEMBERS



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mission of the National Assembly

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility for debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also debate all matters of public interest, most notably in standing committees. The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, between two general elections, is called a "legislature".



Composition of the Assembly

DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

The most recent general election was held on 7 April 2014.

At the opening of the 1st Session of the 41st Legislature, on 20 May 2014, the distribution of seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly was as follows:

Québec Liberal Party	70
Parti québécois	30
Coalition avenir Québec	22
Québec Solidaire	3

On 31 March 2015, the distribution of seats according to political parties represented in the National Assembly was as follows:

Québec Liberal Party	69
Parti québécois	30
Coalition avenir Québec	22
Québec Solidaire	3
Vacant	1

The Assembly must elect a President at the opening of the first meeting in every Legislature. On 20 May 2014, the Assembly thus proceeded to elect its President and Vice-Presidents. On this occasion, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Member for Westmount–Saint-Louis, was re-elected President of the National Assembly. As he was the only Member of the Assembly to have filed a declaration of candidacy with the Office of the Secretary General, the Presiding Officer, Mr. François Gendron, declared Mr. Chagnon elected President. Mr. Gendron was acting as longest-serving Member of the Assembly.

Definition of longest-serving Member of the Assembly: He or she is the Member who has served longest as a Member of the Assembly, but who is not a Member who stands candidate for the office of President, nor any minister, nor the leader of any parliamentary group, nor any member of the Committee on the National Assembly.

President's Oath

As he had done at the opening of the 40th Legislature, the President took the oath before the Secretary General following his election.

Election of the three vice-presidents

Mr. François Ouimet, Member for Marquette, Ms. Maryse Gaudreault, Member for Hull, and Mr. François Gendron, Member for Abitibi-Ouest, were elected as First, Second and Third Vice-President of the Assembly, respectively.

CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Resignations

Three Members resigned in 2014-2015:

Mr. Christian Dubé
Electoral Division of Lévis

First elected:
4 September 2012

Date of resignation:
15 August 2014

Office at time of resignation:
Member

Ms. Élaine Zakaïb
Electoral Division of Richelieu

First elected:
4 September 2012

Date of resignation:
29 September 2014

Office at time of resignation:
Member

Mr. Yves Bolduc
Electoral Division of Jean-Talon

First elected:
29 September 2008

Date of resignation:
26 February 2015

Office at time of resignation:
Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Minister of Higher Education, Research and Science

By-elections

Two by-elections were held during the past fiscal year:

Electoral Division of Lévis
On 20 October 2014

Mr. François Paradis,
of the Coalition avenir Québec,
was elected.

Electoral Division of Richelieu
On 9 March 2015

Mr. Sylvain Rochon,
of the Parti québécois,
was elected.

PHILIPPE COUILLARD
Premier
Député

JEAN MARC FOURNIER
Government House Leader
Saint-Laurent

GERRY SKLAVOUNOS
Deputy Government
House Leader
Laurier-Dorion

STÉPHANE VALLÉE
Deputy Government
House Leader
Gatineau

STÉPHANE BILLETTE
Chief Government
Whip
Ramezay

PATRICK HUOT
Deputy Government
Whip
Vanier-les-Rivières

KARINE VALLIÈRES
Deputy Government
Whip
Richmond

NICOLE MÉNARD
Caucus Chair
Laporte

PIERRE ARCAND
Mont-Royal

PIERRE MICHEL AUBUT
Champlain

JEAN-MARIE BEAUDET
La Prairie

RAYMOND BERNIER
Montmorency

DAVID BERNIER
D'Arcy-McGee

FRANÇOIS BLAIS
Charlesbourg

MARGUERITE BLAIS
Saint-Henri–Saint-Anne

LUC BLANCHETTE
Beauce-Nord–Lotbinière

GISLAIN BOLDUC
Mégantic

JEAN BOUCHER
Ungava

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

GUY BOURGEOIS
Abitibi-Est

MARC CARRIÈRE
Chapleau

FRANÇOIS CHARBONNEAU
Mille-Îles

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Soulanges

GILBERAIN CHEVARIE
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

MARTIN COITEUX
Nelligan

JEAN D'AMOUR
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata

JACQUES DAOUST
Vrdun

HÉLÈNE DAVID
Outremont

MARIE DE SANTIS
Bourassa-Sauvé

ANDRÉ DROLET
Jean-Lesage

ROBERT DUTIL
Beauce-Sud

ANDRÉ FORTIN
Pontiac

LUC FORTIN
Sherbrooke

PIERRE GOYER
Saint-Maurice

JEAN-DENIS GIRARD
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

JEAN HAUX
Trois-Rivières

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

GUY HARDY
Saint-François

DAVID HURTUBISE
Iberville

ALEXANDRE IRACÀ
Papineau

CARLOS J. LEITÃO
Robert-Baldwin

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

LAURENT LESSARD
Lotbinière-Frontenac

MICHEL MATTE
Portneuf

RICHARD MERCIER
La Prairie

MARIE MONTPETIT
Crémazie

PIERRE MORIN
Châteauguay

ROBERT MORIN
Côte-du-Sud

MARIE-CLAUDE NICHOLS
Vaudreuil

GUY OUELLETTE
Chomedey

GILLES OUIMET
Fabre

PIERRE PAQUETTE
Rivière-du-Loup–Témiscouata

MARC H. PLANTE
Maskinongé

ROBERT POËTI
Marguerite-D'Youville

SAM POLO
Laval-des-Rapides

PIERRE REID
Orford

LORRAINE RICHARD
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

JEAN ROUSSELLE
Vimont

CAROLINE SIMARD
Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré

SERGE SIMARD
Bonaventure

YVES SION
Argenteuil

CHRISTINE ST-PIERRE
Acadie

MARC TANGUAY
Laferrière

EVE THÉRIAULT
Anjou–Louis-Riel

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

KATHLEEN WEIL
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

Place aux citoyens

Members of the 41st Legislature

as at 31 March 2015

STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Leader of the Official Opposition
Chicoutimi

AGNÈS MAltAIS
Official Opposition House Leader
Terrebonne

STÉPHANE BERGERON
Deputy Official Opposition House Leader
Verchères

MARJOLAINE DÉSIGNE
Chief Official Opposition Whip
Rosemont

SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Caucus Chair
Labelle

PASCAL BÉRUBÉ
Matane-Matapédia

ALEXANDRE CLOUTIER
Lac-Saint-Jean

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Rimouski

BERNARD DRAINVILLE
Marie-Victorin

SYLVAIN GAUDREAULT
Jonquière

VÉRONIQUE HIVON
Johnson

MAKA KOTTO
Bourget

DIANE LAMARRE
Taillon

HAROLD LEBEL
Rimouski

GAYLE CLAIR
Beauharnois

NICOLE LÉGER
Pointe-aux-Trembles

GAÉTAN LEFÈVRE
Laval

JEAN-FRANÇOIS LISÉE
Rosemont

NICOLAS MARCEAU
Rousseau

MARTINE OUELLET
Vachon

PIERRE KARL PÉLADEAU
Saint-Jérôme

CAROLE POIRIER
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

LORRAINE RICHARD
Duplessis

SYLVAIN ROCHON
Richelieu

SYLVAIN ROY
Bonaventure

ALAIN THIBEAULT
Beauharnois

MARIO TREMBLAY
Lac-Saint-Jean

DAVE TURCOTTE
Saint-Jean

ANDRÉ VILLENEUVE
Berthier

FRANÇOIS LE GRIS
Leader of the Second Opposition Group
Mégantic

FRANÇOIS BONNARDEL
Second Opposition Group House Leader
Granby

ÉRIC CAIRE
Second Opposition Group Deputy House Leader
La Prairie

DONALD MARTEL
Whip of the Second Opposition Group
Nicolet-Bécancour

NATHALIE ROY
Caucus Chair
Montarville

GILBERT CHARETTE
Deux-Montagnes

SYLVIE D'AMOURS
Mirabel

GÉRARD DEltEIL
Chauveau

SIMON-JOLIN BARRETTE
René-Lévesque

MARIO LAFRENIÈRE
Huntingdon

ANDRÉE LAMBERGER
Jeanne-Mance

LISE LAVALLÉE
Repentigny

MATHIEU LEMAY
Masson

FRANÇOIS PARADIS
Lévis

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

JEAN-FRANÇOIS ROBERGE
Chambly

SYLVIE ROY
Richelieu

CLAIRE SAMSON
Iberville

SÉBASTIEN SCHNEIDER
Soulanges

CHANTAL SOUCY
Saint-Hyacinthe

ANDRÉ SPÉNARD
Beauce-Nord

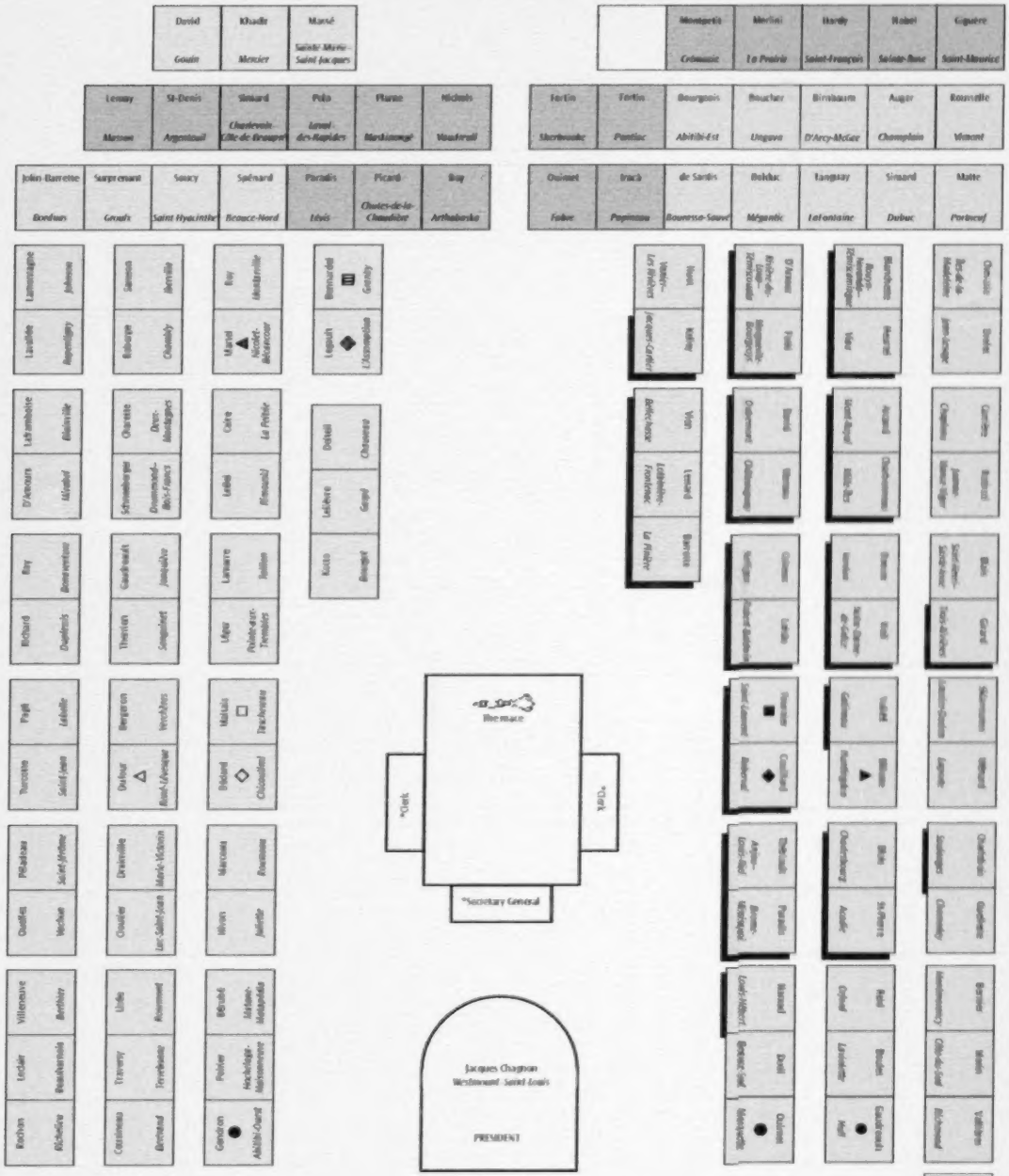
CLAUDE SURPRENANT
Groulx

FRANÇOISE DAIGLE
Gaspé

AMIR KHADIR
Mercier

MANON MASSÉ
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques

Seating plan of the National Assembly as at 31 March 2015



Parliamentary Work

DIRECTIVE FROM THE CHAIR

Allocation of instruments of parliamentary oversight and speaking time

Owing to the new composition of the Assembly since the last general election, and as is customary under such circumstances, the President of the Assembly gave an important directive at the sitting of 26 May 2014 on the management of question period and the allocation of measures and speaking time for the duration of the legislature.

To this end, he based his directive particularly on the major principles established over the years by parliamentary jurisprudence.

Among these principles are:

- the preponderant role traditionally played by the Official Opposition;
- the right for any Member to ask a question during Oral Question Period;
- the relative proportion of each parliamentary group and the independent Members.

So that each Member may fully and efficiently fulfill his role, the following instruments of parliamentary oversight were thus allocated among the parliamentary groups and the independent Members:

- questions assigned during Oral Question Period;
- motions discussed during business standing in the name of Members in opposition;
- interpellations;
- statements by Members;
- debates upon adjournment;
- speaking times during the various limited debates.

Discussions among the political parties represented in the Assembly subsequently led to the adoption of the *Agreement relating to the conduct of proceedings in the National Assembly and in parliamentary committees as well as to parliamentary offices and budgetary aspects.*

By this agreement, in addition to reiterating the allocation of instruments of parliamentary oversight stipulated in the directive handed down on 26 May, the Members agreed on various conditions surrounding committee work, including:

- the composition of committees;
- the allocation of chairs, vice-chairs and temporary chairs;
- the allocation of speaking time.

Furthermore, other provisions contained in this agreement concern budgetary matters and the recognition of the parliamentary offices of caucus chair, deputy House leader and second committee vice-chair for the Second Opposition Group.

At the sitting of 2 June 2014, the Assembly adopted the temporary amendments stemming from this agreement for the duration of the 41st Legislature.

Work performed at the National Assembly

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK PERFORMED AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

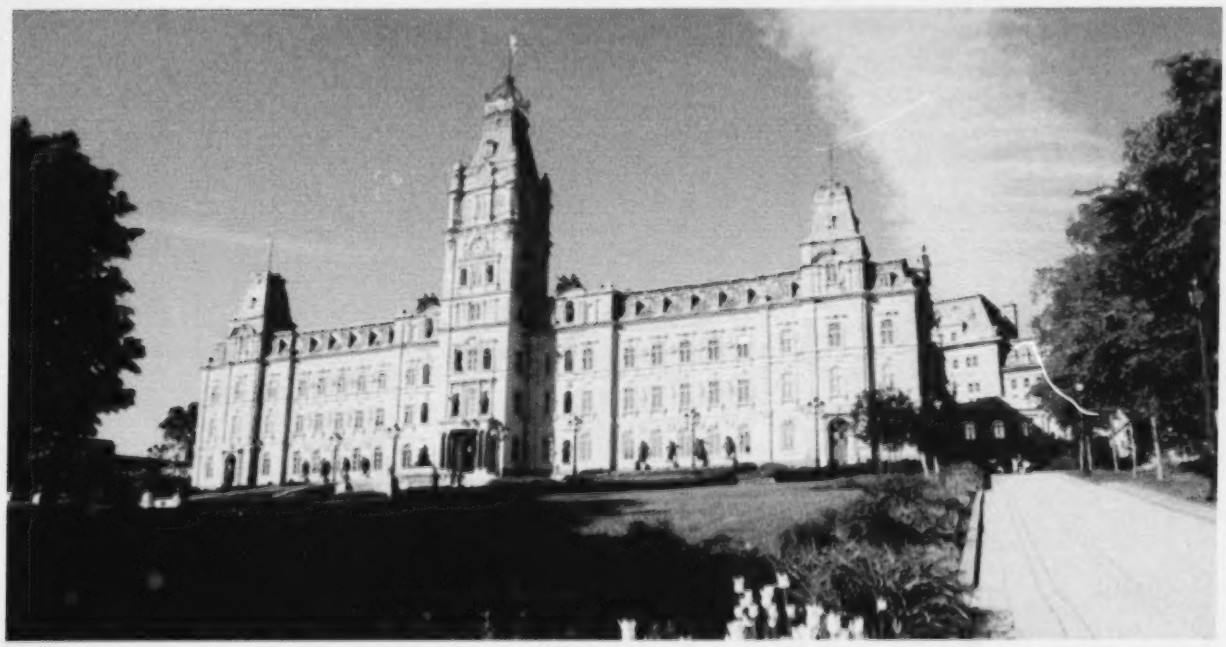
During the past year, 71 sittings were held at the National Assembly. For the calendar and schedule of proceedings, please visit our website at assnat.qc.ca.

	SITTINGS	HOURS
May	7	34 hr. 00 min.
June	10	47 hr. 30 min.
July	1	4 hr. 11 min.
September	7	36 hr. 58 min.
October	11	37 hr. 18 min.
November	13	54 hr. 02 min.
December	4	18 hr. 49 min.
February	10	58 hr. 44 min.
March	8	42 hr. 33 min.
TOTAL	**71**	**334 hr. 05 min.**

From 20 May 2014 to 31 March 2015, the National Assembly passed 29 bills.

Government bills	25, 60% of which were passed unanimously
Private Members' public bills	None
Private bills	4 bills, all passed unanimously

At the Premier's request, the National Assembly may hold an extraordinary sitting outside the period provided for in the parliamentary calendar. This request is addressed to the President or, in his absence, to the Secretary General.



In 2014-2015, at the request of the Premier, the National Assembly was summoned to extraordinary sittings on two occasions:

- on 3 July, to complete the consideration and adoption of the estimates of expenditure for the 2014-2015 fiscal year;
- on 6 February 2015, to complete the examination of Bill 10, An Act to modify the organization and governance of the health and social services network, in particular by abolishing the regional agencies.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

An Assembly sitting consists of two distinct periods, the first being Routine Proceedings. This part is divided into items of business devoted to information provided by the Government to the National Assembly.

0.1 ‖ Statements by Members

This item of business, which signals the beginning of a sitting, is an opportunity for Members, including ministers, to make a one-minute statement on a particular matter. Up to ten Members may make a statement per sitting.

1 ‖ Statements by Ministers

Ministers may make statements to the Assembly on any subject they deem appropriate, such as the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a particular event.

In 2014-2015, three ministers made statements.

- On 18 November, the Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change made a statement about the fight against climate change.
- On 20 November, the Minister of Families made a statement about the Government's family policy.
- On 10 February 2015, the Minister of Finance made a statement about establishing a tax holiday for businesses carrying out large investment projects.

2 ‖ Introduction of bills

Members do not discuss the content of bills at this point; they simply allow them to be submitted for consideration during subsequent stages of the legislative process. In all, 54 bills were introduced in the National Assembly in 2014-2015, including:

- 34 Government bills;
- 15 Private Members' public bills;
- 5 private bills.

3 ▮ Presenting papers, reports from committees and petitions

Between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015, 963 papers were tabled in the National Assembly. They are divided as follows:

Report on a mission	**1**
Replies to written questions placed on the Order Paper	**38**
Reports from the Law Clerk	**5**
Decisions from the Office of the Assembly	**11**
Petitions	**141**
Replies to petitions	**86**
Committee reports	**79**
Annual reports (departments and agencies)	**278**
Other documents	**324**
TOTAL:	**963**

4 ▮ Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations

A Member may call attention to any breach of the privileges or immunities of the Assembly or of its Members. With the permission of the President of the Assembly, a Member may also explain a matter that concerns him or her as a Member of the Assembly. For instance, a Member may wish to call attention to inaccuracies contained in the written record of one of his or her speeches, refute allegations made in a publication, or explain remarks that have been misinterpreted.

5 ▮ Oral Questions and Answers

Question Period lasts 45 minutes during which Members may question ministers on any matter that is of public interest. This constitutes one of the means by which Members hold the Government accountable for its actions.

The following statistics are based on the parliamentary calendar, not on the fiscal year:

41st Legislature, 1st Session, spring 2014:

Number of hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers: **10 hr. 17 min.**

Number of main questions	**158**
Number of supplementary questions	**302**

41st Legislature, 1st Session, fall 2014:

Number of hours devoted to Oral Questions and Answers: **22 hr. 04 min.**

Number of main questions	**321**
Number of supplementary questions	**615**

6 ▮ Deferred Divisions

Votes are taken in the Assembly either by a show of hands or by recorded division. The President may, at the request of the Government House Leader, defer any division until later on the same sitting day. He may likewise defer such division until the Routine Proceedings on the next sitting day thereafter.

7 ▮ Motions Without Notice

This stage of Routine Proceedings is set aside expressly to allow Members to discuss motions that have not first been placed on the Order Paper and Notices.

8 ▮ Notices of Proceedings in Committees

This item of business enables the Government House Leader to communicate to the Assembly details concerning the committee proceedings held in pursuance of an order of reference from the Assembly. The President also informs the Assembly of the notices of proceedings in committees pursuant to an order made on their own initiative.

9 ▮ Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly

The last heading under Routine Proceedings allows the Government House Leader, on his own initiative or at the invitation of a Member, to communicate to the Assembly any information on the proceedings of the Assembly. Requests for information must solely concern items of business placed on the Order Paper and Notices. At this stage, the President may also be called upon to give the Assembly information regarding its proceedings.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The second part of a sitting at the National Assembly, the Orders of the Day, is devoted mainly to debates on bills at any stage of consideration. At this time, the National Assembly also takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate.

1 ▮ Business Having Precedence

As the name indicates, this business takes precedence over all other matters due to its importance or urgency. The opening speech of the session, delivered by the Premier, and the speeches by the leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives during the subsequent debate rank first among business having precedence. Other business having precedence includes the budget speech and want of confidence motions. The opening speech of the First Session of the 41st Legislature was delivered on 21 May 2014, and two budget speeches were delivered, on 4 June 2014, when the newly-elected Government presented its 2014-2015 budget, and on 26 March 2015.

2 ▮ Urgent Debates

Any Member may ask leave to debate a definite and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly that requires urgent consideration and cannot be, or could not have been, otherwise discussed. The President decides, without debate, whether or not the matter is proper to be discussed. If leave is granted, a two-hour limited debate shall arise on the matter submitted. The debate shall expire without question put. One urgent debate was requested in 2014-2015, which request was ruled inadmissible.

3 ‖ Debates on Reports from Committees

Committee reports that contain recommendations are entered on the Order Paper and Notices the day after they are tabled in the National Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days. In 2014-2015, three debates on committee reports containing recommendations were held.

4 ‖ Other Business Standing on the Order Paper

At this time, the National Assembly goes through the various stages of studying bills, notably passage in principle, consideration of reports from committees that have examined bills and the passage of bills.

5 ‖ Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition is taken on Wednesdays, except during any period in which the Assembly has extended hours of meeting, during which period such debates may not be held. The President decides the sequence in which items placed on the Order Paper by Members in opposition are to be raised.

Fourteen motions were debated during Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition in 2014-2015. Eight motions were moved by Members of the Official Opposition, five by Members of the Second Opposition Group, and one by an independent Member. Of the 14 motions debated, two were carried.

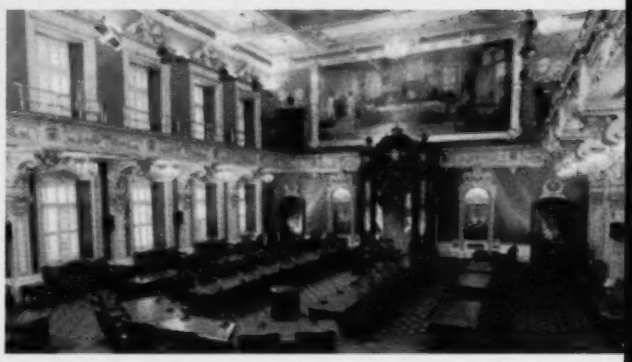
Written questions placed on the Order Paper and debates upon adjournment

During Oral Question Period, questions must relate to matters of urgent or topical public importance for which a minister or the Government is officially responsible. All other questions must be written. Fifty-seven written questions were placed on the Order Paper in 2014-2015. Replies to written questions are tabled by the Government House Leader at the time set aside for this purpose during the Routine Proceedings.

Moreover, pursuant to Standing Order 308, any Member who is of the opinion that a matter he has raised during oral question period has not been sufficiently discussed may debate it further upon adjournment. Debates upon adjournment are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and not more than three debates may be held per sitting. There are no debates upon adjournment during any period in which the Assembly has extended hours of meeting. In the past year, 41 debates upon adjournment were held.

Work carried out in the standing committees

A considerable portion of parliamentary work is carried out in standing committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. These committees bring together a dozen Members of the various political parties that make up the National Assembly and are responsible for examining any matter under their authority. In committee, the public can express its views during public consultations on bills or important societal issues. In committee, Members also closely examine bills and the Government's estimates of expenditure, as well as monitor the activities of departments and Government agencies. Furthermore, on their own initiative, they may elect to investigate any other matter under their authority.



For the schedule of standing committee sittings, please visit our website at assnat.qc.ca.

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK CARRIED OUT IN COMMITTEES

Importance of clause-by-clause consideration of bills (figures as at 31 March 2015)

The consideration of bills is an essential component of standing committee work. In 2014-2015, the consideration of public bills and private bills represented 58% of the work carried out by Members in committee.

ACTIVITIES IN THE STANDING COMMITTEES	Hours	Percentage
Estimates of expenditure	198 hr. 23 min.	18.9%
Interpellations	19 hr. 59 min.	1.9%
Oversight of agencies and accountability	10 hr. 10 min.	1.0%
Orders carried out by the Committee on Public Administration	38 hr. 41 min.	3.7%
TOTAL PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL ACTIVITIES (SUBTOTAL)	**267 hr. 13 min.**	**25.4%**
Consideration of public bills	605 hr. 53 min.	57.6%
Consideration of private bills	2 hr. 45 min.	0.3%
Election of chairs and vice-chairs	0 hr. 36 min.	0.1%
Other orders of the Assembly	88 hr. 38 min.	8.4%
Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders	16 hr. 48 min.	1.6%
Orders of initiative	15 hr. 46 min.	1.5%
Examination of petitions	3 hr. 20 min.	0.3%
Statutory orders	22 hr. 59 min.	2.2%
General organization deliberative meetings	28 hr. 25 min.	2.7%
TOTAL ACTIVITIES	**1,052 hr. 23 min.**	**100%**

All of the orders carried out by the standing committees may be found in the appendix of this report.

Number of committee sittings and hours per month

In 2014-2015, the standing committees held 346 sittings for a total of 1,052 hours of work.

MONTH	SITTINGS	HOURS
May	3	2 hr. 53 min.
June	61	200 hr. 21 min.
July	5	37 hr. 02 min.
August	7	31 hr. 48 min.
September	24	41 hr. 22 min.
October	49	117 hr. 18 min.
November	71	229 hr. 58 min.
December	19	54 hr. 39 min.
January	27	124 hr. 16 min.
February	47	130 hr. 26 min.
March	33	82 hr. 20 min.
TOTAL	**346**	**1,052 hr. 23 min.**

CLAUSE-BY-CLAUSE CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The standing committees examined 28 bills of which a complete list may be consulted in the appendix. For all bills submitted for study by the standing committees, 1,024 sections were examined and 272 amendments were adopted out of the 428 amendments introduced.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

In 2014-2015, 489 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinions on the various matters on which a general consultation, special consultations or public hearings were held. The standing committees received 595 briefs. These consultations enable the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration.

EXAMINATION OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

From 19 June to 2 July 2014, the standing committees considered the estimates of expenditure of the Government, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. By the conclusion of their mandate, the committees had devoted 198 hours and 23 minutes to examining the estimates of expenditure allocated to Government ministries and agencies.

Standing committees

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Areas of competence: Standing Orders and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings, coordination of the proceedings of the other committees.

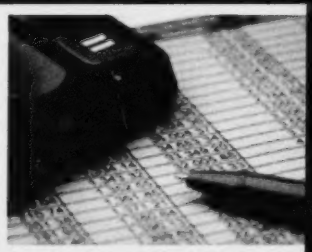
Members as at 31 March 2015:

The President of the National Assembly	Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)
The Vice-Presidents of the National Assembly	Mr. François Ouimet (Marquette) Ms. Maryse Gaudreault (Hull) Mr. François Gendron (Abitibi-Ouest)
House leaders of the parliamentary groups	Mr. Jean-Marc Fournier (Saint-Laurent) Ms. Agnès Maltais (Taschereau) Mr. François Bonnardel (Granby)
Whips of the parliamentary groups	Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon) Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque) Mr. Donald Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour)
Committee chairs	
Mr. Pierre Michel Auger (Champlain) Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière) Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Mr. Gilles Ouimet (Fabre) Mr. Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford) Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger) Mr. Marc Tanguay (LaFontaine)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

As provided for in the Standing Orders, the Committee on the National Assembly met in May and June 2014 to select the Members to serve on the standing committees and approve the list of temporary chairs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



Areas of competence: Examination of financial commitments, hearing of the Auditor General on his annual management report, accountability of departments and agencies and discussion of their administrative management when it has been the subject of any report from the Auditor General or Public Protector, examination of the annual report on the implementation of the Public Administration Act, and examination of any other matter that the Assembly may refer to it.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière) PQ
Vice-chairs:	Mr. Richard Merlini (La Prairie) QLP Mr. Gérard Deltell (Chauveau) CAQ
QLP	**PQ**
Ms. Rita Lc De Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage) Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford) Ms. Caroline Simard (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré)	Mr. Pierre Karl Péladeau (Saint-Jérôme) Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier) **CAQ** Mr. Éric Caire (La Peltrie)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

In December 2014, the Committee on Public Administration tabled its 31st report on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies. This report contains 15 unanimous recommendations arising from the five hearings held on the following topics:

- The governance and management of major infrastructure projects of the Agence métropolitaine de transport;
- prescription drugs and pharmaceutical services;
- the administrative management of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles;
- the implementation and operation of service areas;
- Green Fund management and financial assistance.

Also, in compliance with the responsibilities conferred upon it by the Standing Orders, the Committee examined the annual management reports of 12 departments and agencies. Furthermore, its 31st report presents the follow-up to the recommendations made in previous reports.

Finally, the Committee held four hearings between the months of January and March 2015. The conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee members will be published in the 32nd report, which is scheduled to be tabled in June 2015. These hearings were on the following topics:

- examination of the 2012-2014 report on the application of the Public Administration Act;
- the 2013-2014 annual management report of the Auditor General;
- the administrative management of the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux;
- acquisitions of goods and services at the Centre de services partagés du Québec.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Areas of competence: Agriculture, fisheries, food, energy and natural resources.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

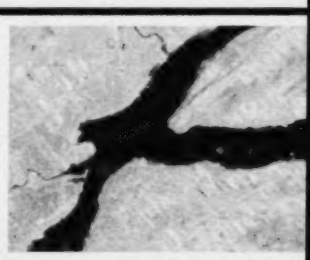
Chair:	Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Norbert Morin (Côte-du-Sud) QLP
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Guy Bourgeois (Abitibi-Est) Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Mr. Robert Dutil (Beauce-Sud) Mr. Pierre Giguère (Saint-Maurice) Mr. Guy Hardy (Saint-François) Mr Serge Simard (Dubuc)	Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure) Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier) **CAQ** Ms. Sylvie D'Amours (Mirabel) Mr. Sébastien Schneeberger (Drummond–Bois-Francs)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

In fall 2014, the special consultations on Bill 11, An Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord, gave rise to five public meetings during which the Committee heard 22 persons and groups, who submitted an equal number of briefs. Subsequently, 13 sittings were set aside for the clause-by-clause consideration of the 104 sections of this bill establishing a Crown corporation whose mission is to contribute to the integrated and coherent development of the area covered by the Northern Plan, in keeping with the principle of sustainable development.

During the fall sessional period, the Committee heard the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec to discuss its policy directions, activities and administrative management. It also decided to expand on the matter of farmland grabbing. For this purpose, it heard 19 organizations during public hearings within the framework of special consultations.

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN



Areas of competence: Land use planning and development, municipal affairs, housing, sport and recreation, and local and regional community development.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Pierre Michel Auger (Champlain) QLP
Vice-chair:	Ms. Martine Ouellet (Vachon) PQ
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Mr. Germain Chevarie (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) Mr. Guy Hardy (Saint-François) Mr. Norbert Morin (Côte-du-Sud) Ms. Marie-Claude Nichols (Vaudreuil) Mr. Jean Rousselle (Vimont) Ms. Caroline Simard (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré)	Mr. Guy Leclair (Beauharnois) Mr. Gaétan Lelièvre (Gaspé) Mr. Sylvain Pagé (Labelle) **CAQ** Mr. Mario Laframboise (Blainville) Mr. Mathieu Lemay (Masson) **QS** Mr. Amir Khadir (Mercier)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

Of all the bills referred to the Committee on Planning and the Public Domain, there is no doubt that the Committee devoted most of its time to Bill 3, An Act to foster the financial health and sustainability of municipal defined benefit pension plans, which was introduced in June 2014. Indeed, the Committee held five days of public hearings in August and heard 28 groups and organizations. In October and November 2014, the clause-by-clause consideration of the bill required 23 sittings.

The mandates of the standing committees

Standing committees may carry out four types of mandate:

- Orders of reference. When so ordered by the Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure and any other matter that may be referred to them;
- Statutory orders;
- Orders of initiative. The committees have power to initiate examinations of the following matters: the policy directions, activities, and management of the departments and agencies, petitions, draft regulations and regulations, and any other matter that may be of public interest;
- Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

Interpellations (provided for in the Standing Orders)

Every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. In 2014-2015, Government's ministers were interpellated ten times in the standing committees. Each interpellation was held at a meeting of the appropriate committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATI

Areas of competence: Culture, education, ocational training, higher education and communications.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Maka Kotto (Bourget) PQ
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. David Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) Mr. Jean Boucher (Ungava) Mr. Luc Fortin (Sherbrooke) Mr. Jean Habel (Sainte-Rose) Mr. Alexandre Iracà (Papineau)	Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette) Ms. Nicole Léger (Pointe-aux-Trembles) Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean) **CAQ** Ms. Claire Samson (Iberville) Mr. Jean-François Roberge (Chambly)

Main mandate carried out by the Committee

The Committee on Culture and Education examined a petition on sex education classes. A report containing the Committee's observations and conclusions was published following meetings with the originator of the petition, community group representatives as well as representatives from the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Areas of competence: Industry, trade, tourism, labour, manpower, science, technology and income security.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Claude Cousineau (Bertrand) PQ
Vice-chair:	Mr. Yves St-Denis (Argenteuil) QLP
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Pierre Michel Auger (Champlain) Mr. David Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) Mr. André Drolet (Jean-Lesage) Mr. André Fortin (Pontiac) Mr. Marc H. Plante (Maskinongé) Mr. Saul Polo (Laval-des-Rapides)	Mr. Harold LeBel (Rimouski) Mr. Pierre Karl Péladeau (Saint-Jérôme) Mr. Alain Therrien (Sanguinet) **CAQ** Mr. André Lamontagne (Johnson) Ms. Sylvie Roy (Arthabaska)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

The bills referred to this committee quickly passed through the various stages of the legislative process. For example, Bills 8, 19 and 34 required three days of public hearings. Members devoted a total of eight sittings to the clause-by-clause consideration of these three bills, along with Bill 22. These bills concerned the Labour Code, the Cooperatives Act, supplementary pension plans and the Food Products Act respectively.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Areas of competence: Finance, the budget, government administration, the public service, revenue, services, supply and pension plans.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) QLP
Vice-chairs:	Mr. Bernard Drainville (Marie-Victorin) PQ Mr. André Spénard (Beauce-Nord) CAQ
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Ghislain Bolduc (Mégantic) Mr. Marc Carrière (Chapleau) Ms. Rita Lc de Santis (Bourassa-Sauvé) Mr. Jean Habel (Sainte-Rose) Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf) Mr. Saul Polo (Laval-des-Rapides)	Mr. Gaétan Lelièvre (Gaspé) Mr. Nicolas Marceau (Rousseau) Mr. Alain Therrien (Sanguinet) **CAQ** Mr. François Bonnardel (Granby)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

Of the five bills referred to the Committee on Public Finance, two were especially noteworthy. First, Bill 15, An Act respecting workforce management and control within government departments, public sector bodies and networks and state-owned enterprises. From its introduction on 9 October 2014 to its passage on 5 December 2014, the Committee held 16 sittings on this bill: 3 to hold public hearings and 13 to give it clause-by-clause consideration.

Then, for Bill 28, An Act mainly to implement certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 4 June 2014 and return to a balanced budget in 2015-2016, the Committee held nine sittings for special consultations and received 74 briefs.

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Areas of competence: Chairmanship of the Conseil exécutif, justice, public security, the Constitution, aboriginal affairs, international and intergovernmental relations.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Gilles Ouimet (Fabre) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Jean-François Lisée (Rosemont) PQ
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Jean Boucher (Ungava) Mr. Luc Fortin (Sherbrooke) Mr. Richard Merlini (La Prairie) Mr. Guy Ouellette (Chomedey) Mr. Jean Rousselle (Vimont) Mr. Marc Tanguay (LaFontaine)	Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) Mr. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean) Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve) **CAQ** Mr. Benoit Charette (Deux-Montagnes) Ms. Nathalie Roy (Montarville)

Statutory orders

Certain orders carried out by the standing committees stem from a statute. Others derive from a Standing Order of the National Assembly. For instance, it is within the framework of the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level that the Committee on Culture and Education hears the deans of universities.

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

The Committee on Institutions was tasked with various mandates, including several that were completed before the end of the fiscal year. First, it should be noted that the Committee heard the Public Protector, in compliance with the Standing Orders. Following this hearing, the Committee, on its own initiative, heard Hydro-Québec on the possibility of its becoming subject to the Public Protector's power of intervention.

Furthermore, it held public hearings for the purpose of examining the report on the implementation of the Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Code of Penal Procedure as regards the collection of fines. The Committee also examined the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Coroner. The Committee's other mandates were ordered by the Assembly and basically concerned bills, including the completion of four special consultations and six clause-by-clause considerations.

Two of these mandates gave rise to reports containing the Committee's observations, conclusions and recommendations, namely:

- The hearing of Hydro-Québec on the possibility of its becoming subject to the Public Protector's power of intervention;
- The examination of the report on the implementation of the Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Code of Penal Procedure as regards the collection of fines.

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Areas of competence: Citizen relations, cultural communities, immigration, status of women, the family, seniors, youth and consumer protection.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière) CAQ
Vice-chair:	Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri–Sainte-Anne) QLP
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Raymond Bernier (Montmorency) Mr. David Birnbaum (D'Arcy-McGee) Mr. André Fortin (Pontiac) Mr. Luc Fortin (Sherbrooke) Ms. Marie Montpetit (Crémazie) Ms. Filomena Rotiroti (Jeanne-Mance–Viger)	Mr. Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères) Mr. Maka Kotto (Bourget) Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis) Mr. Mathieu Traversy (Terrebonne) **CAQ** Ms. Lise Lavallée (Repentigny)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

Over the past year, the Committee's work has been quite diversified. During its first statutory order, in September, it heard several agencies within the framework of the examination of reports on the activities of the Fonds de soutien aux proches aidants and on the activities of the Société de gestion l'Appui, for the fiscal years ended on 31 March 2011, 2012 and 2013. Furthermore, in order to examine the reports on the activities of the Fonds pour le développement des jeunes enfants and on the activities of the

Orders of initiative

Committees may take the initiative to examine draft regulations and regulations, policy directions, the activities and management of public agencies and departments, petitions and any other matter of public interest. For instance, during the past year, the Committee on Institutions heard Hydro-Québec on the possibility of its becoming subject to the Public Protector's power of intervention. The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources adopted an order of initiative on the analysis of the farmland grabbing phenomenon.

Société de gestion Avenir d'enfants for the fiscal years ended on 31 March 2011, 2012 and 2013, the Committee heard this agency's head officers. The Committee members prepared their observations and conclusions in a deliberative meeting.

Moreover, the Assembly instructed the Committee on Citizen Relations to hold special consultations and public hearings on the document entitled *Towards a New Québec Policy on Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion*. In total, 7 hearings were held in February on this topic.

Following another order of reference it received on 24 February 2015, the Committee held special consultations on the 2008-2013 Government Action Plan concerning Sexual Assault. Regarding this mandate, the Committee received 26 briefs and held four days of public hearings, during which 18 agencies were heard. In its report tabled on 30 March 2015, the Committee included its conclusions on this matter.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Areas of competence: Health, social services and community services.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Marc Tanguay (LaFontaine) QLP
Vice-chair:	Ms. Véronique Hivon (Joliette) PQ
QLP	**PQ**
Mr. Pierre Giguère (Saint-Maurice) Mr. Jean Habel (Sainte-Rose) Mr. Marc H. Plante (Maskinongé) Mr. Alexandre Iracà (Papineau) Ms. Marie Montpetit (Crémazie) Ms. Caroline Simard (Charlevoix–Côte-de-Beaupré)	Ms. Diane Lamarre (Taillon) Mr. Jean-François Lisée (Rosemont) Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis) **CAQ** Mr. François Paradis (Lévis) Ms. Chantal Soucy (Saint-Hyacinthe)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

On 25 September 2014, the Minister of Health and Social Services introduced Bill 10, An Act to modify the organization and governance of the health and social services network, in particular by abolishing the regional agencies. This bill, whose primary objective is to simplify the healthcare pathway for Québec patients by carrying out a major reform of the health services system, caught the interest of both parliamentarians and the media. Indeed, on the occasion of the special consultations, the Committee received a total of 125 briefs. During the months of October and November 2014, 14 sittings were held in which 64 groups and individuals were heard during public hearings. Clause-by-clause consideration of the bill, which began in December 2014, continued in January and February 2015.

On 6 February 2015, the Assembly was summoned to an extraordinary sitting, thus ending the bill's clause-by-clause consideration by the Committee on Health and Social Services. Following a motion moved by the Government House leader for the Assembly to adopt an exceptional legislative procedure, the bill's clause-by-clause consideration was completed in Committee of the Whole. It should be noted that 77 Internet users submitted comments on this bill.

The Committee on Health and Social Services was one of the busiest committees in 2014-2015. During the months of February and March 2015, it held more special consultations and public hearings, this time on Bill 20, An Act to enact the Act to promote access to family medicine and specialized medicine services and to amend various legislative provisions relating to assisted procreation. This bill is also a part of the health and social services reform.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Areas of competence: Transportation, the environment, wildlife and parks.

Members as at 31 March 2015:

Chair:	Mr. Pierre Reid (Orford) QLP
Vice-chair:	Mr. Pascal Bérubé (Matane-Matapédia) PQ
QLP Mr. Ghislain Bolduc (Mégantic) Mr. Guy Bourgeois (Abitibi-Est) Ms. Marie-Claude Nichols (Vaudreuil) Mr. Gilles Ouimet (Fabre) Mr. Serge Simard (Dubuc) Mr. Yves St-Denis (Argenteuil)	**PQ** Mr. Sylvain Gaudreault (Jonquière) Ms. Martine Ouellet (Vachon) Mr. Sylvain Roy (Bonaventure) **CAQ** Mr. Simon Jolin-Barrette (Borduas) Mr. Claude Surprenant (Groulx)

Main mandates carried out by the Committee

The Committee on Transportation and the Environment held special consultations on the draft revised Government Sustainable Development Strategy for 2015–2020. Hearings were held during the months of January and February 2015. The Committee received 57 briefs and heard 42 agencies. At the end of this mandate, the members drafted a report containing observations.

Regarding legislation, the Committee held special consultations and gave clause-by-clause consideration to the three following bills:

- Bill 16, An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles and other provisions;
- Bill 25, An Act to transfer the responsibility for issuing road vehicle dealer's and recycler's licences to the president of the Office de la protection du consommateur;
- Bill 32, An Act to amend the Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water in order to extend its application.

Orders of reference

In 2014-2015, several motions carried by the National Assembly referred matters to the committees. Among these, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment was instructed to hold special consultations and public hearings on the draft revised Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2015-2020. Likewise, the Committee on Citizen Relations held special consultations and public hearings on the paper entitled "Towards a New Québec Policy on Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion".

The examination of petitions

Each year, a large number of petitions are tabled in the National Assembly. An abstract of each of these petitions is forwarded to the members of the competent parliamentary committees. If a Member so requests it, the Committee within whose area of competence the matter falls holds a deliberative meeting to decide whether or not it will consider the petition. In the past year, one petition was examined. This examination gave rise to a report containing observations and conclusions.

REPORTS CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During 2014-2015, the standing committees wrote seven reports containing observations, conclusions and recommendations, and which were tabled in the National Assembly. The following is a list of these reports, which may be consulted on the National Assembly website:

Orders of the Assembly

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Transportation and the Environment	*Special consultations and public hearings on the draft revised Government Sustainable Development Strategy for 2015–2020 – Observations*
Citizen Relations	*Special consultations and public hearings on the 2008-2013 Government Action Plan concerning Sexual Assault – Conclusions*

Statutory orders

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Citizen Relations	*Examination of the reports on the activities of the Fonds de soutien aux proches aidants and on those of the Société de gestion L'Appui, for the fiscal years ended on 31 March 2011, 2012 and 2013 – Observations and conclusions*
Institutions	*Examination of the Report on the implementation of the Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Code of Penal Procedure as regards the collection of fines – Observations, conclusions and 4 recommendations*

Orders of initiative

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Culture and Education	*Examination of petition no. 258-20140918 concerning sex education classes – Observations and conclusions*
Institutions	*Hearing Hydro-Québec on the possibility of its becoming subject to the Public Protector's power of intervention – Observations, conclusions and one recommendation*

Orders carried out by the Committee on Public Administration

COMMITTEE	TITLE OF DOCUMENT
Public Administration	*Hearings with the deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies on their administrative management – Observations, conclusions and 15 recommendations*

TEMPORARY CHAIR

A temporary chair is a Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chair or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity.

Following is the list of temporary chairs as at 31 March 2015:

Parliamentary group forming the Government

Mr. Guy Bourgeois (Abitibi-Est)

Mr. André Fortin (Pontiac)

Mr. Pierre Giguère (Saint-Maurice)

Mr. Jean Habel (Sainte-Rose)

Mr. Guy Hardy (Saint-François)

Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)

Ms. Marie Montpetit (Crémazie)

Ms. Marie-Claude Nichols (Vaudreuil)

Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition

Mr. Alexandre Cloutier (Lac-Saint-Jean)

Mr. André Villeneuve (Berthier)

Mr. Nicolas Marceau (Rousseau)

Mr. Dave Turcotte (Saint-Jean)

Parliamentary group forming the Second Opposition Group

Mr. Benoit Charette (Deux-Montagnes)

Mr. Sébastien Schneeberger (Drummond)

Mr. Mario Laframboise (Blainville)

Parliamentary diplomacy

The National Assembly of Québec has diplomatic relations with other parliaments and various interparliamentary organizations. The purpose of the Assembly's participation in interparliamentary relations activities is to:

- reinforce the effectiveness of the institution and elected officials in their duties;
- mprove the position of the Assembly on the international scene;
- actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice and prosperity;
- promote Québec society's sectors of excellence.

Multilateral relations

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE FRANCOPHONIE

APF - Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): Founded in 1967, composed of members from 81 parliaments and interparliamentary organizations on the five continents (National Assembly of Québec: full member since 1975).

The National Assembly plays a very active role within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF). During the past year, the parliamentarians notably continued their work towards promoting the French language and the diversity of cultural expressions, developing interparliamentary cooperation, and consolidating peace, democracy and human rights in the French-speaking world.

It is within this context that a National Assembly delegation took part in the 40th Session of the APF, held in Ottawa from 3 to 8 July 2014. The Ottawa Session provided an opportunity to promote Québec's perspective on the priority issues of the Francophonie. During the general debate on the theme of the 2014 Summit of La Francophonie, *Women and youth in the Francophonie: Vectors of peace, actors for development,* the President of the National Assembly advocated for the rights of women in French-speaking countries through the fight against violence, access to quality education at all levels and the integration of an approach aiming at gender equality in the United Nations' forthcoming Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Furthermore, from 4 to 7 August 2014, the National Assembly took part in the 30th session of the Americas Regional Assembly, which brought together over twenty parliamentarians. This meeting focussed mainly on social media and parliaments. For the first time, the Parlement francophone des jeunes des Amériques (PFJA) was held concurrently with the regional assembly. A joint working meeting bringing together the PFJA's aspiring parliamentarians and those of the Americas Region was held.

Moreover, a woman Member of the National Assembly represented the APF's Network of Women Parliamentarians at the 59th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which was held in New York City in March 2015. This meeting was the high point of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Member defended the Network's positions before the French-speaking ministers for the status of women who had gathered on the margins of the Commission's proceedings, in addition to promoting Québec's gender equality policies before various international players.

Order of La Pléiade recipients

On 18 March 2015, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, bestowed the Order of La Pléiade insignias on prominent Quebecers from different walks of life. Launched in 1976, the Pléiade, an order of La Francophonie and cultural dialogue, is awarded to public figures who have distinguished themselves in service to the ideals of the APF, notably those of cooperation, solidarity and democracy. These are the recipients:

Front row, from left to right: Mr. Pierre Demers, Ms. Pauline Marois, Messrs. Jacques Chagnon, Pierre Arcand and Olivier Latulippe.

Second row, from left to right: Mmes Diane Lapierre, Carole Poirier, Lise Thériault, Mr. Jacques Côté, Ms. Sylvie Roy, Messrs. Bertrand St-Arnaud, André Dorval, Jacques Lacoursière, Bernard Dupriez and Germain Lafrenière.

Third row, from left to right: Messrs. Pierre Chastenay and Stéphane Venne.

Grand Cross

Ms. Pauline Marois, Premier of Québec, from 19 September 2012 to 23 April 2014

Commander

Mr. Pierre Arcand, Member and Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

Officer

Mr. Gilles Latulippe (posthumously – represented by his son, Mr. Olivier Latulippe), actor, founder of the Théâtre des Variétés

Knight

Mr. Pierre Chastenay, astronomer and professor of science education at Université du Québec à Montréal

Mr. Jacques Côté, notary, former Member and minister

Mr. Pierre Demers, physician and inventor

Mr. André Dorval, Québec co-chair of the Commission franco-québécoise sur les lieux de mémoire communs (CFQLMC)

Mr. Bernard Dupriez, associate professor at Université de Montréal, founder of the C.A.F.É. courses, self-taught written French courses, and of Gradus, dictionary of literary techniques

Mr. Jacques Lacoursière, historian and history consultant

Mr. Germain Lafrenière, founder and president of TED sans frontières, an international francophone organization whose mission is to research autism

Ms. Diane Lapierre, artistic and general director of La Troupe V'là l'Bon Vent

Ms. Carole Poirier, Member, vice-chair of the APF's Québec section, chair of the APF's conference of presidents of the Americas section and rapporteur for the APF's Committee on Education, Communications and Cultural Affairs

Ms. Sylvie Roy, Member, vice-chair of the APF's Québec section and rapporteur for the APF's Committee on Cooperation and Development

Mr. Bertrand St-Arnaud, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Québec, former rapporteur for the APF's Committee on Education, Communications and Cultural Affairs and former vice-chair of the APF's Québec section

Ms. Lise Thériault, Member, Deputy Premier and Minister of Public Security, former Québec section representative in the APF's Network of Women Parliamentarians

Mr. Stéphane Venne, singer-songwriter and musical arranger

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

CPA - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: Founded in 1911, composed of some 180 parliaments from the countries forming the Commonwealth (National Assembly: full member since 1933).

The President of the National Assembly along with three parliamentarians took part in the 52nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canadian Regional Conference, in Fredericton, from 20 to 26 July 2014. The President delivered a speech on the *Act respecting end-of-life* care and on the importance of debating societal issues in Parliament. Each year, this conference allows parliamentarians to attend workshops on various topical issues or matters related to the parliamentary system. This is also an ideal opportunity to strengthen the National Assembly's relations with Canada's federal, provincial and territorial legislative assemblies.

Moreover, three parliamentarians participated in the 60th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 2 to 10 October 2014. The main theme of this conference was "Repositioning the Commonwealth for the Post-2015 Development Agenda". The Québec Members took part in workshops on the role of Parliaments in particular. The topics discussed included unity in diversity, women's rights and the role of Parliamentarians in gender empowerment, the principles of good governance and transparency, and the implementation of Members' codes of conduct. Moreover, a Québec Member delivered a speech during the workshop whose theme was "Financial oversight in Westminster style and francophone parliaments: sharing good practice". The speech included a recommendation that was agreed to by all delegates in attendance. This opportunity provided by the CPA gave the National Assembly excellent visibility among a high-level audience.

During the activities of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network, a Québec woman Member took part in the outreach program to underline the importance of Canadian women's involvement in politics, on 15 and 16 September 2014, in St. John's, Newfoundland. The outreach program's objectives are to inform women about the roles of parliamentarians in their community and to encourage young women's political and school involvement. The Québec Member shared her experiences as a parliamentarian and addressed women's rights issues.

We should also note the participation of two Members in the CPA's 36th Canadian Regional Seminar, from 16 to 19 October 2014. They took part in the exchanges and debates relating to the seminar's themes, particularly as regards the National Assembly's international and interparliamentary relations as well as the ongoing training opportunities offered to Members within the context of these relations. A Québec Member also presented the specific features of Québec's immigration policy to his Canadian counterparts.

The 32nd Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in January 2015. As in previous years, the Assembly was represented by its President, two Vice-Presidents and the Director General of Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. This

conference allows parliamentarians and their staff to take part in discussions on topics of interest to the Chair as well as on parliamentary procedure. It should be noted that the President delivered a speech on security issues as viewed through the lens of parliamentary privileges. The Conference's various workshops, which were also attended by the other assembly speakers, gave the President the opportunity to share the National Assembly's experience and exchange views with his Canadian counterparts on various issues.

PARLIAMENTARY CONFEDERATION OF THE AMERICAS

COPA - Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: created in 1997 on the initiative of the Québec National Assembly, it brings together the parliamentary assemblies and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

The National Assembly plays an important role within COPA. During the past year, Québec Members actively participated in its various proceedings by promoting Québec's interests, in addition to taking part in decisions concerning the institutional workings and strengthening of the organization.

Host of the meeting in Mexico, Ms. Dora Elena Real Salinas, Executive Secretary of COPA and State of Mexico Member of Parliament

The National Assembly took part in the meetings of the Committee on Education, Culture, Science and Technology and the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development that were held in Toluca, Mexico, on 6 and 7 August 2014. The themes of the Education Committee's proceedings focussed on school reintegration and adult education, professional training, quality of education and bullying in schools. The Québec Member holding the office of rapporteur of this committee participated in the continental roundtable on quality of education. He also presented and tabled the final report on school reintegration and adult education in the Americas, in addition to taking part in discussions on this theme. The Québec parliamentarians also attended various conferences of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, concerning, among other topics, climate change strategies and adaptation measures in development policies and air quality.

Furthermore, the National Assembly actively participated in the meeting of the Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples and Citizen Security held in Saltillo, Mexico, from 8 to 10 August 2014. The parliamentarians notably took part in the Seminar on Migration and the Disappearance of Persons, which brought together international experts on human rights.

A delegation of National Assembly parliamentarians also took part in the various proceedings of the 13th General Assembly of COPA and in the 12th annual meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, held in Asunción, Paraguay, from 3 to 5 November 2014.

On this occasion, the Québec Members contributed to the discussions on chronic diseases, the Ebola virus epidemic, the integration of public health policies, the arms trade, electoral observation and social economy. Several experts and stakeholders gave presentations on these themes. Furthermore, while chairing the proceedings of the Committee on Democracy and Peace, a Québec woman Member presented the Committee's work plan for the coming year and had the Committee adopt a recommendation on the dispatch of an electoral observation mission. Lastly, a resolution on the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts, Components and Ammunition presented by this Member was adopted by the Committee members.

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas was also held in Asunción. The Network's Québec representative presented the report of the Network Secretariat, which is lodged at the National Assembly, as well as a report on the follow-up to the Interparliamentary Seminar on the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This seminar was held at the Québec National Assembly on 21 and 22 January 2014. The representative and another Québec woman Member had the Seminar's Québec Declaration adopted by the Network and the COPA General Assembly.

In addition to taking part in the debates and proceedings, the Québec Members contributed to the planning of the COPA activities for the upcoming year. They also participated in the decisions concerning the organization's finances, the workings of the secretariats and the institutional strengthening of COPA.

AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ORGANIZATIONS

CSG - Council of State Governments: Organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1995).

ERC/CSG - Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: Organization that constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives from the Northeastern United States as well as five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 1990).

NCSL - National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the legislative assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories (National Assembly of Québec: international associated member since 2000).

With the beginning of a new legislature, the National Assembly continued its efforts to promote and defend the interests of Québec in the influential forums provided by the major interparliamentary organizations of the United States. Parliamentarians from the National Assembly took part in a dozen activities bringing together American legislators and policymakers, in order to consolidate the National Assembly's position within these organizations, to promote Québec therein and strengthen their efficiency as elected officials.

On 24 and 25 July 2014, the National Assembly hosted the meeting of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus. In addition to raising American and Ontarian parliamentarians' awareness of this region's environmental issues and the impact of the Great Lakes' health on the St. Lawrence River, this meeting provided an opportunity to promote economic exchanges between Québec and the Midwest, particularly through marine transportation.

Cross-border exchanges took centre stage at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC/CSG), which was held in Baltimore, Maryland, from 2 to 6 August 2014. Indeed, the Québec delegation was instrumental in the adoption of a resolution asking that cargo pre-inspection and preclearance operations extend to all major border crossings between Canada and the United States, including those located in Québec. Furthermore, Québec parliamentarians took part in the proceedings of the Committee on Energy and the Environment on the modernization of American electrical infrastructure. At the end of this meeting, it was agreed that the National Assembly would host the organization's 56th Annual Meeting, which will be held from 6 to 10 August 2016.

Furthermore, Québec Members took part in the proceedings and attended the various conferences at the Annual Conference of the Council of State Governments (CSG), held in Anchorage, Alaska, from 9 to 13 August 2014. The members of the Québec delegation also attended the proceedings of the organization's executive committee, on which the National Assembly sits as an international associated member.

For its part, the Annual Assembly of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from 18 to 22 August 2014. The Québec parliamentarian who attended this meeting notably participated in the meeting of the working group on energy supply. Moreover, his presence at the meeting of the Natural Resources and Infrastructure Committee provided an opportunity to set the record straight as to the work carried out on Québec's electrical infrastructure, following the solar storm that occurred in March 1989. In accordance with its objectives, the National Assembly adopted, for the second year in a row, the NCSL's policy on climate change.

BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PARTNER PARLIAMENTS AND WITH EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

Date and place	Activity	Themes
From 13 to 16 October 2014 (Brussels)	24th Session of the National Assembly of Québec / Parliament of the Federation of Wallonia-Brussels Joint Committee	- Access to justice: the Centres de justice de proximité (Québec) and the Maisons de Justice (Belgium) - End-of-life care policies
From 13 to 17 October 2014 (Paris and Bordeaux)	27th Session of the France-Québec Interparliamentary Committee	- The development of remote regions - Ethics and codes of conduct in political life
From 6 to 8 November 2014 (Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, Spain)	18th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Regional Legislative Assemblies	- Cyberdemocracy - Immigration - Cohesion policy - The principle of subsidiarity
From 20 to 21 November 2014 (Québec City)	20th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association	- Transportation of dangerous goods - Public health emergency preparedness

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For over fifteen years, the National Assembly has been providing technical support to the parliamentary institutions of States that are in transition or where the consolidation of democracy is taking place, thus allowing them to reinforce their parliamentary and administrative operation. This interparliamentary cooperation reflects the National Assembly's commitment to playing an active role in promoting as well as consolidating democratic institutions worldwide.

20th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association

The main fields of expertise in which the National Assembly provides its cooperation include all parliamentary and administrative elements contributing to the exercise of elected officials' duties and to ensuring the proper functioning of parliamentary institutions. In general, these actions take the form of seminars and various discussion, information, training and development workshops. Most interventions are intended for new parliamentarians, secretaries-general as well as public servants assigned to either parliamentary or administrative duties.

In 2014-2015, the National Assembly continued to support the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire (ANCI) by providing technical assistance with regard to human resources management (July 2014). This mission allowed for the production and implementation of a human resources management strategy for the ANCI. This mission was carried out in collaboration with the State University of New York (SUNY) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF). Additional missions to implement this strategy are scheduled for 2015, as well as support with regard to archives and documentary research. To provide a framework for this collaboration and to extend it to other countries that might need it, a memorandum of understanding was signed in March 2015 with SUNY, a world leader in the strengthening of parliaments. This agreement will allow international funding partners to take over full responsibility of the National Assembly's expertise in future projects implemented by SUNY.

A mission was also carried out in Colombia, in December 2014, to share Québec's experience on mining legislation with the Colombian Congress. This mission was conducted in collaboration with the Parliamentary Centre, based in Ottawa.

The third session of the Morocco-Québec Interparliamentary Standing Committee was held in Rabat in March 2015. The main topics of discussion were the involvement of young people in democratic life and the use of social media.

Finally, it should be noted that on 8 April 2014, the day after the general election in Québec, the National Assembly welcomed a dozen members of the Réseau des compétences électorales francophones (RECEF), within the framework of an international exchange program organized by the Québec Chief Electoral Officer. The Québec National Assembly shared its approach and methods for welcoming and integrating new Members.

MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND HIS COUNTERPARTS

The President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, welcomed the President of the Walloon Parliament, Mr. André Antoine, during his visit to Québec City, as well as the Speaker of the Senate of Canada, the Honourable Pierre Claude Nolin.

The President of the Walloon Parliament, Mr. André Antoine, and the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon.

OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City.

Parliamentary visits

- 20th General Assembly of the Ontario-Québec Parliamentary Association (OQPA)
- The First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Fadik Sarra Epse Sako
- The Vice-President of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of the municipality of Shanghai, Mr. Zhou Taitong
- A delegation of the Great Lakes Legislative Caucus
- The Member for Aisne at the French National Assembly, Mr. Xavier Bertrand
- The Senator of Drôme and President of the Rhône-Alpes Tourisme organization, Mr. Jean Besson
- The Member for Rhône and President of the Rhône-Alpes region, Mr. Jean-Jack Queyranne
- A delegation of parliamentarians, members of the Standing Committee on Local Government and Public Administration of the Parliament of Norway
- A delegation of the German-Canadian Parliamentary Group of the Bundestag

Visits from representatives of governments and intergovernmental organizations and other foreign dignitaries

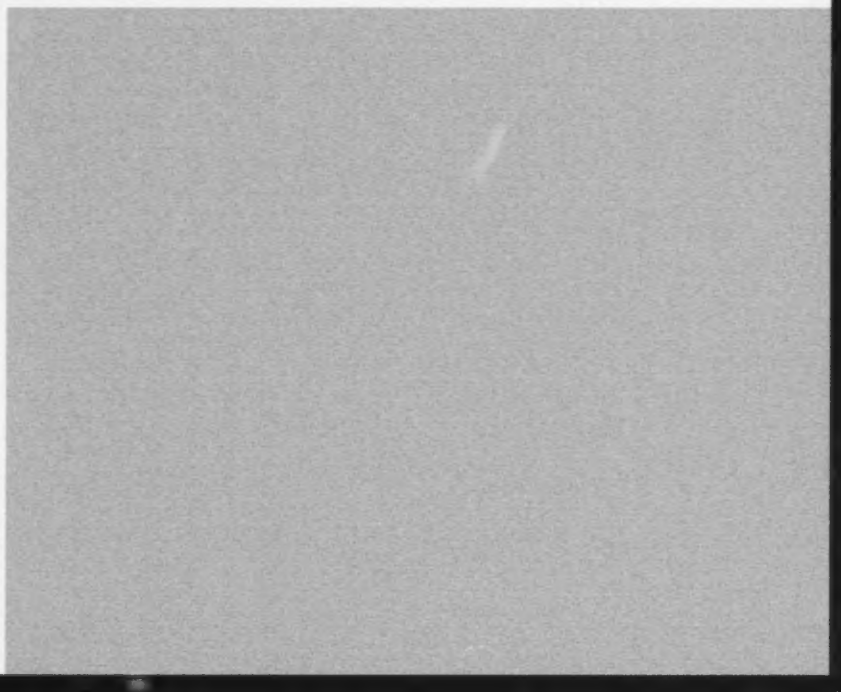
- The President of the French Republic, Mr. François Hollande
- The President of the Republic of Iceland, Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson
- The Minister for European Affairs and Regional Relations of Bavaria, Ms. Beate Merk
- The Secretary General of the 2nd French Language World Forum, Mr. Philippe Suinen

The President of the French Republic, Mr. François Hollande.

Visits from representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps

- The Ambassador of Belgium, H.E. Mr. Raoul Roger Delcorde
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Benin, H.E. Mr. Pamphile C. Goutondji
- The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Luo Zhaohui
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Mr. Hee Yong CHO
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia, H.E. Mr. Veselko Grubisic
- The Ambassador of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. Bruce Heyman
- The Ambassador of the United Mexican States, H.E. Mr. Francisco Suarez Davila
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, H.E. Mr. Gian Lorenzo Cornado
- The Ambassador of the Republic of Mali, H.E. Ms. Ami Diallo Traoré
- The Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation, H.E. Mr. Beat Nobs
- The heads of diplomatic missions of Nordic countries
- The heads of diplomatic missions of the member States of the European Union
- The Consul General of the United States of America in Montréal, Mr. Charles Parker
- The Consul General of the United States of America in Montréal, Ms. Nina Fite
- The Consul General of the State of Israel in Montréal, Mr. Ziv Nevo Kulman
- The Consul General of the Kingdom of Morocco in Montréal, Ms. Wassane Zailachi
- The Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Montréal, Ms. Azra Jamali
- The Consul General of the United Kingdom in Montréal, Mr. Patrick Holdich
- The Consul General of the United Kingdom in Montréal, Mr. James Baker
- The Consul General of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay in Montréal, Mr. Luis Eduardo Coronel Maldonado
- A group of honorary consuls of Québec

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AND THE CITIZENS



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CITIZENS

The National Assembly seeks to be close to the citizens, accessible and friendly. It encourages the public's participation in parliamentary proceedings using modern technological tools and information networks, in addition to proposing different activities to educate on democracy, guided tours, and open-house days. It should be noted that its Library is open to citizens and that, besides parliamentary proceedings and press activities, the Assembly Channel broadcasts specialty programming. Moreover, the Assembly organizes recognition ceremonies to honour people who made outstanding contributions in various sectors. More than 124,000 people visited the Parliament Building in 2014-2015.

The Medal of Honour

The Medal of Honour is awarded to public figures from all walks of life who, through their career, their work or their social commitment, are deserving of recognition from the Members of the National Assembly and the people of Québec.

During a ceremony held at Le Parlementaire restaurant on 18 November 2014, four public figures were awarded the Medal of Honour:

From left to right: Messrs. Stéphane Garneau and Jacques Chagnon, Ms. Louise Brissette and Messrs. Louis Garneau and François-Guy Thivierge.

- Ms. Louise Brissette, a trained physiotherapist and osteopath, who adopted 37 disabled children;
- Mr. Louis Garneau, cycling pioneer and founder of Louis Garneau Sports;
- Mr. Richard Garneau (posthumously – represented by his son, Mr. Stéphane Garneau), sports journalist;
- Mr. François-Guy Thivierge, businessman and climbing pioneer.

Furthermore, nine former Presidents of the National Assembly, elected in the 1970s and subsequent years, received the Medal of Honour at a ceremony held on 13 May 2014. They are:

Nine former National Assembly Presidents received the Medal of Honour.

- Mr. Clément Richard, elected President on 14 December 1976 (Parti québécois)
- Mr. Claude Vaillancourt, elected President on 11 November 1980 (Parti québécois)
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Saintonge, elected President on 28 November 1989 (Liberal Party)
- Mr. Roger Bertrand, elected President on 29 November 1994 (Parti québécois)
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau, elected President on 12 March 1996 (Parti québécois)
- Ms. Louise Harel, elected President on 12 March 2002 (Parti québécois)
- Mr. Michel Bissonnet, elected President on 4 June 2003 (Liberal Party)
- Mr. François Gendron, elected President on 21 October 2008 (Parti québécois)
- Mr. Yvon Vallières, elected President on 13 January 2009 (Liberal Party)

Political Book Prize

On the occasion of the Salon international du livre de Québec, and for the 12th year, the Political Book Prize, which is divided into a few categories, was awarded to authors who wrote on subjects relating to Québec politics. The President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, announced the winners for 2014 on 10 April.

The National Assembly's Prix de la Présidence

These prizes underline the quality and originality of books on Québec politics published in the past year.

1st prize: Réal Bélanger	*Henri Bourassa. Le fascinant destin d'un homme libre (1868-1914).* Les Presses de l'Université Laval.
2nd prize: Michel Lévesque	*Histoire du Parti libéral du Québec. La nébuleuse politique (1867-1960).* Septentrion.
3rd prize: Stéphane Savard	*Hydro-Québec et l'État québécois, 1944-2005.* Septentrion.

The Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant

Master's theses

Two recipients are tied.

Aryane Babin	*L'expropriation du territoire de Forillon : étude du processus décisionnel des responsables étatiques fédéraux et provinciaux, 1968-1975.* Université Laval.
Martin Lavallée	*Faire échec à l'Union : Denis-Benjamin Viger, un Patriote face au Canada-Uni.* Université du Québec à Montréal.

Doctoral theses

1st prize: Caroline Hervé	*« On ne fait que s'entraider. » Dynamiques des relations de pouvoir et construction de la figure du leader chez les Inuit du Nunavik (XXe siècle-2011).* Université Laval.
2nd prize: Valérie Lapointe-Gagnon	*Penser et «panser» les plaies du Canada : le moment Laurendeau-Dunton, 1963-1971.* Université Laval.

From left to right: Réal Bélanger, Martin Lavallée, Valérie Lapointe-Gagnon, Vice-President Claude Cousineau, Aryane Babin, Michel Lévesque and Stéphane Savard.

Absent from the photo: Caroline Hervé.

The winner of the "Doctoral theses" category also won the Prix Ministère des Relations internationales, de la Francophonie et du Commerce extérieur du Québec / Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France.

Public participation in parliamentary proceedings

Many avenues are open to citizens who wish to take part in the work of Members and thus express their opinions. The "Voice Your Opinion" section of the National Assembly website provides information on how to attend sittings, sign petitions, table briefs, and submit comments on bills under consideration.

It total, 5,331 persons attended the Assembly's Oral Question Period, while 4,794 persons took part in or attended a standing committee sitting in 2014-2015.

PETITIONS

Any Québec resident may start a petition and present it to the Assembly through a Member of the National Assembly. Any Member may present a petition except the President of the Assembly. Cabinet members, however, generally refrain from doing so. Finally, the Member need not endorse the content of the petition to present it in the House.

A petition may be started by an individual or an association and signed on paper or online on the website of the National Assembly. This site also allows citizens to consult petitions that have already been presented to the Assembly.

Paper petitions	E-petitions	Total petitions presented	Answers to petitions*
70 petitions	71 petitions	**141 petitions**	116
195,436 signatures	354,499 signatures	**549,935 signatures**	

* Note that a single answer may be given for several petitions concerning the same subject.

Owing to the elections held at the beginning of the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the number of petitions presented to the Assembly is lower than the average of previous years.

COMMENTS RECEIVED

Citizens may leave comments on the website with regard to topics being considered by the Assembly or by the standing committees, regardless of whether a public consultation is being held on the matter. All visitors have to do is complete the online form and forward it electronically or fill it out on paper and send it through regular mail. Comments are then forwarded to the Members so that they may take better account of citizens' concerns when carrying out their mandates. In 2014-2015, visitors left a total number of 1390 comments regarding 44 mandates, consultation topics, bills and draft bills.

Visitors at the National Assembly

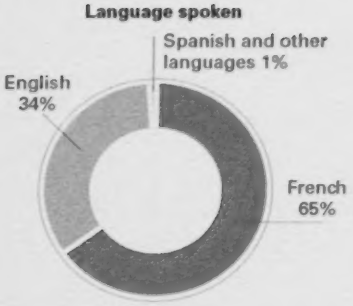
The National Assembly can be discovered in a number of ways. Thus, each year, thousands of visitors take a guided tour or take part in open-house days and brunches.

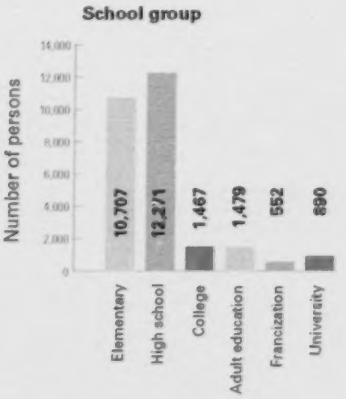
GUIDED TOURS

In 2014-2015, 87,817 persons took a free guided tour of the Parliament Building, thereby improving their knowledge of the history and workings of the National Assembly. Visitors who are with a group also sometimes have the opportunity to meet with the Member for their riding, which happened 154 times in 2014-2015.

Furthermore, from 24 June to Labour Day, staff members posted at an outdoor kiosk welcome visitors at the Parliament Building entrance. This year, 15,051 persons obtained information from these guides, and 336 among them took an outdoor tour, which includes information on the gardens, statues and architectural features of the Parliament Building.

For more information on the activities of the National Assembly, whether to find out about the work of Members or to reserve a guided tour, citizens may inquire by telephone. This year, the Assembly received 12,694 calls.





OPEN HOUSE DAYS

The National Assembly held open house days on two occasions this year, thus allowing visitors to discover its history, architecture as well as certain areas of the Parliament Building that are not normally accessible to the public.

Thus, 1,422 individuals attended an open house day on the occasion of Québec's national holiday, 24 June. Several activities were organized, including a visit of the clock in the Parliament Building's Central Tower accompanied by master clockmaker André Viger, as well as a guided tour of the gardens and urban agriculture with urban agriculture specialists, the Urbainculteurs.

Furthermore, the National Assembly took part in Culture Days, on 27 and 28 September 2014. Open house visits, exhibitions, brunches and other activities were on the agenda of these festive days that attracted 1,626 persons.

SPECIAL BRUNCHES

On a few occasions during the year, Le Parlementaire restaurant holds brunches to give visitors an opportunity to enjoy a unique culinary experience featuring Québec's regional dishes, in addition to taking a guided tour of the Parliament Building.

Thus, on 10 August, a summer brunch organized during the New France Festival attracted 233 guests, while the one organized during Culture Days attracted 200. Moreover, 535 people attended the two brunches held during the Québec Winter Carnival, on 8 and 15 February.

FAMILIARIZATION DAYS

Familiarization days for Quebecers from immigrant backgrounds enable these citizens to become more familiar with the democratic institution of the National Assembly. They also have the opportunity to meet the President and some parliamentarians, to exchange views with these Members and to become better acquainted with the history of Québec and the parliamentary system. These days, which take place at the Parliament Building, are organized in collaboration with the Department of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness and the National Capital Commission of Québec.

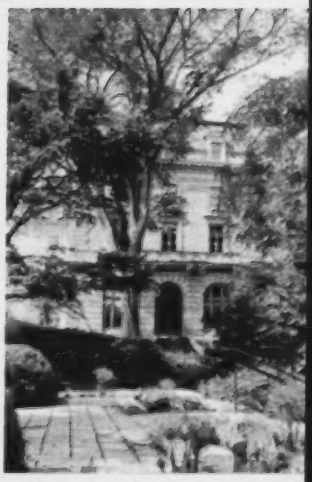
Familiarization day participants meet parliamentarians and may ask them questions.

Familiarization days in 2014-2015

Date	Participants' origin	Number of participants
28 October 2014	Centre-du-Québec region	42
24 March 2015	City of Montréal's west end	43

The Library of the National Assembly

The Library's mission is to provide information and research services to parliamentarians and the administrative branches of the Assembly by providing them with reliable and impartial information and analyses. For these purposes, it offers reference, research, indexing, and document and archival management services.



A LIBRARY THAT OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC

During the past year, 12,204 persons visited the Library of the National Assembly as library users, guests at special events or visitors. In total, 4,803 citizens used the Library's resources and benefited from the welcoming and guidance services as well as training on the use of the available tools. They also had access to the Library catalogue.

Lastly, open houses, guided tours, book launches, exhibitions and conferences held throughout the year attracted over 4,500 visitors.

The Library conferences

Two conferences were held at the Library this year. Within the framework of Culture Days, historian Jean Provencher made a presentation on the following topic: *The Great War and the riots of 1918 in Québec City*. Furthermore, in November, a lunch and learn session was held with Mr. Carl Pépin on the following theme: *The First World War of Quebecers: the necessary rewriting of history*.

The painting entitled *"L'incendie du Parlement"*.

L'incendie du parlement painting

In summer 2014, artist Martin Bureau's painting *L'incendie du parlement* was donated to the National Assembly and installed in the Library. The work of art is intended as a reflection on democracy, its precariousness and a reminder that our society must be vigilant and concerned about democracy, as indicated on its label, written by Mr. Bureau: "Showing the artist's interest in the critical analysis of established systems, the painting *L'incendie du parlement* expresses the wish for sustainable democracy, by evoking its precariousness".

SUPPORT TO PARLIAMENTARIANS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

Requests or work carried out	Number
Answers to requests for information and document searches	5,642 requests
Requests for semi-active records	314 requests
Requests for textual archives	283 requests
Requests for photographic archives	205 requests
Indexing of parliamentary debates pages	28,457 pages
Indexing of tabled documents	954 documents
Acquisition and cataloguing of new documents	20,799 documents

In 2014-2015, the Library staff helped six sectorial standing committees carry out their orders by preparing analysis and background reports. The Service was tasked with a total of 40 mandates that resulted in 93 separate papers, including 6 standing committee reports that were tabled in the National Assembly. The Library also provided research support to the Committee on Public Administration, particularly for the drafting of its December 2014 report on the accountability of the public administration.

During the year, support to interparliamentary and international relations activities resulted in 42 research mandates, in the form of drafting speeches, reports and briefing notes.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICATIONS

In the historical and institutional research sector, work on the *Encyclopédie du parlementarisme québécois* project, which is available on the National Assembly website, continued at a steady pace. This online encyclopedia aims at organizing and sharing

knowledge acquired over the years with regard to parliamentary principles and practices. Additionally, an issue of the Library periodical, the *Bulletin de la Bibliothèque*, was published in summer 2014.

Moreover, the Library updates several databases that are available online and whose topics include: Québec's political parties, elections and referendums worldwide, public funding of election campaigns, and federalism. Librarians also publish each week a list of the Library's new arrivals and regularly add data to the *Bibliographie sur le parlementarisme au Québec,* which is available online and constitutes the most comprehensive source of information to date on Québec parliamentary work.

Furthermore, newspaper, magazine, law and regulation databases are available for onsite consultation, as well as the full text of the National Assembly debates since 1867.

THE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

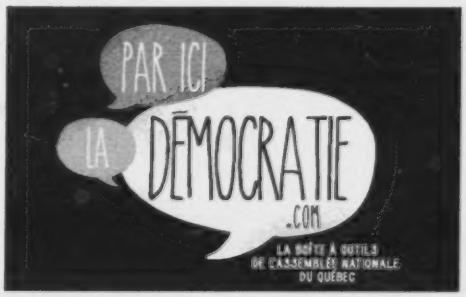
As at 31 March 2015, over 2.2 million documents, such as monographs, periodicals, newspapers, and microfilms, were available at the Assembly Library. Furthermore, the Library holds over 200,000 of the National Assembly's administrative and historical records, 47 private archival records, over 5,000 objects and artefacts and 72,500 hours of audiovisual and sound recordings of the parliamentary proceedings of the National Assembly.

Lastly, the Library maintains a collection of rare and valuable books consisting of some 9,480 titles. This collection is both a legacy and a testimony of cultural and parliamentary life in Québec. The Pierre-Joseph Olivier Chauveau Collection is the jewel of this group. In 2014-2015, the Library restored six documents of the Rare and Valuable Books Collection, including two from the Chauveau Collection.

Educational mission

The National Assembly is proud to offer various educational activities to young Quebecers. For over thirty years, it has focussed its efforts on working more closely with young people in order to inform and initiate them and give them the tools they will need to fully exercise their role as citizens living in a democracy.

PAR ICI LA DÉMOCRATIE WEBSITE



Launched in fall 2014, the *Par ici la démocratie* website is the National Assembly's new educational youth zone. It provides a fresh and original look at our parliamentary institutions while enabling a better understanding of the fundamental role of Parliament in society.

This site is designed to serve as an educational tool for social sciences teachers, who can create a personal space allowing them to pin articles, photos, maps, graphs and interactive diagrams that will be useful when planning their courses. The documents presented are free of copyright restrictions, downloadable and editable to meet users' needs. The interface is attractive and adapted to youth and school environments.

Since its launching, the site has received an average of 2,500 visits each month. As at 31 March 2015, it had 600 subscribers.

PRESIDENT'S TOUR

During the Tour, the President of the Assembly or one of the three Vice-Presidents meets with students in their high school, accompanied by the Member for the electoral division visited. From 9 February to 27 March 2015, the President and Vice-Presidents met close to 800 students in 8 schools located in 4 Québec regions.

This activity aims to:

- broaden the knowledge of students with regard to the role played by the Members, the President and the National Assembly;
- promote the importance of citizen participation among youth;
- provide students with an opportunity to exchange views on topics that are of interest to them.

PARLIAMENTARY SIMULATIONS AND A QUIZ GAME

These role-playing activities are designed to educate participants about the operation of the National Assembly, its rules and powers. Apprentice Members spend several days drafting and discussing bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and respect for others.

18th PUPILS' PARLIAMENT

Date: 2 May 2014
Target group: 6th grade elementary school students
Number of participants: 111 students and 61 teachers
Titles of the three bills studied, all of which were passed:

- An Act respecting the posting of personal information on social media
- An Act respecting Earth Day in Québec schools
- An Act respecting automated external defibrillators

PARLEMENT ÉCOLIER

23rd STUDENT FORUM

Dates: 12 to 16 January 2015
Target group: College students
Number of participants: 130 students and 48 teachers
Number of CEGEPs represented: 24
Titles of the three bills studied, all of which were passed:

- An Act respecting the electrification of transportation
- An Act respecting the creation of a Regional Assembly
- An Act to establish a course on general economy and Québec politics

FORUM ÉTUDIANT

Pairing of law students

For the second year in a row and in collaboration with the Law Faculty of Laval University, the National Assembly offered training to students interested in legislative drafting and the parliamentary process. A group of nine students was thus given the opportunity to take part in the drafting of three bills during the Student Forum, in January 2015.

Laval University students helped the Student Forum participants draft their bills.

13th YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT

Dates: 21 to 23 January 2015
Target group: Secondary 3 and 4 students
Number of participants: 126 students and 42 teachers
Number of schools represented: 36
Titles of the three bills studied, all of which were defeated:

- An Act to reform Québec's post-secondary education system
- An Act to impose an additional tax on Québec's fast food industry
- An Act to provide a framework for advertising in high schools

PARLEMENT DES JEUNES

Motion moved by the opposition and debated:
"THAT the Assembly of the Young People's Parliament support the mandatory wearing of school uniforms in Québec's high schools in order to reduce discrimination related to the material deprivation of students."

Order of initiative:

Students were given the opportunity to question Mr. Camille Beaudoin and Ms. Anne-Bianca Morissette, financial education director and analyst at the Autorité des marchés financiers respectively, on the topic of debt among young people.

Youth Parliament and Student Parliament of Québec

In addition to its own parliamentary simulations, the National Assembly also lends its support and arranges logistics for two simulations intended for young people aged 18 to 25:

- The Youth Parliament of Québec, organized by the Association québécoise des jeunes parlementaires inc.;
- The Student Parliament of Québec, organized by the Assemblée parlementaire des étudiants du Québec inc.

The 65th Youth Parliament, held from 26 to 30 December 2014, brought together 104 participants. A few days later, from 2 to 6 January 2015, the 29th Student Parliament of Québec attracted 144 participants. Each year, these activities give young people an opportunity to learn about the basics of the legislative and parliamentary process.

Young Democrats' Tournament

The Young Democrats' Tournament is a quiz that invites contestants to test their knowledge about the evolution of democracy, from Ancient Greece to modern day, and on Québec's political history. Young people from secondary 4 and 5 as well as from college participate each year in this educational activity.

Dates: 11 to 13 April 2014
Target group: Secondary 4 and 5 students and college students
Number of participants: 192 participants and 54 teachers
Number of participating schools: 30
Number of teams competing: 43 (27 secondary – 16 college)
Main theme: Former Québec parliamentarians since the 20th century

Gold-medal winners:
High school category: **Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf**
College category: **Cégep Garneau**

FONDATION JEAN-CHARLES-BONENFANT

Internship program

Each year, five ten-month internships are offered to students who have earned a degree from a Québec university in the past two years. The internship includes a $21,000 scholarship. Excellent marks, an interest in democratic institutions as well as social and community involvement are the main selection criteria.

The Fondation can count on the Commission de la Capitale nationale to carry out its mission.

During their internship, the five candidates selected experience the numerous facets of Québec parliamentary life, becoming more familiar with the workings of the National Assembly and the various organizations that report directly to it.

Furthermore, each intern is paired with a Member from the Government and then a Member in opposition. The interns also organize a fact-finding mission to a foreign parliament and exchange with their counterparts from the Parliament of Canada and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. In parallel to these activities, the interns are required to prepare a dissertation on a topic in relation to parliamentarism and democracy.

FONDATION
JEAN-CHARLES-BONENFANT

End of 2013-2014 internships

On 19 June 2014, an official ceremony presided by Ms. Maryse Gaudreault, Vice-President of the National Assembly and of the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, marked the end of a busy year, begun in September 2013, as interns Joël Bégin, Alexandre Duval, Isabelle Giroux, Anaïs Jalbert and Audrée Ross submitted their dissertations.

From left to right: the Secretary General of the Assembly, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, interns Alexandre Duval, Joël Bégin, Isabelle Giroux, Anaïs Jalbert and Audrée Ross, as well as foundation Vice-President, Ms. Maryse Gaudreault.

The dissertation titles are as follows:

- *La Charte de la langue française : à la charnière des nationalismes québécois* (Joël Bégin)
- *Les députés homosexuels de l'Assemblée nationale de 1977 à 2002 : un facteur dans l'atteinte de l'égalité juridique des gais et lesbiennes du Québec ?* (Alexandre Duval)
- *Les gouvernements minoritaires à l'Assemblée nationale du Québec : entre collaboration et confrontation* (Isabelle Giroux)
- *L'usage des médias sociaux en politique au Québec #guidepratique #assnat* (Anaïs Jalbert)
- *La représentation politique des Premières Nations du Québec* (Audrée Ross)

These dissertations are available at the Library of the National Assembly and online on the foundation's website (fondationbonenfant.qc.ca).

Beginning of 2014-2015 internships

The 2014-2015 parliamentary internships began on 2 September 2014 for Marianne Desjardins, Antonin Lacelle-Webster, Andrée-Anne Marsan-Paquin, Arnaud Montreuil and Anne-Marie Pilote. Upon their arrival in September, they were introduced to parliamentary life through tailor-made training sessions designed to help them fully benefit from their experience within the institution.

From left to right: Marianne Desjardins, Anne-Marie Pilote, Andrée-Anne Marsan-Paquin, Antonin Lacelle-Webster and Arnaud Montreuil.

The Vice-President of the National Assembly, Ms. Maryse Gaudreault, accompanied by the students of a winning school.

Parliaments in Elementary School and Parliaments in High School are inspired by the National Assembly while mirroring the operation of student councils. They encourage students to take part in decisions affecting student life. These parliaments take place in a spirit of collaboration between the school board, the administration and the staff members.

Furthermore, they allow young people to learn and put into practice core democratic values such as freedom of speech, respect for other people's opinions and the art of compromise. On 31 March 2015, 168 schools had renewed their registration with Parliaments in Elementary School (135 schools) and Parliaments in High School (33 schools).

To carry out these Parliaments, the Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant can count on the support of several partners, namely the Commission de la Capitale-nationale du Québec, the Fondation Desjardins, Québecor, the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec, the Fédération des comités de parents du Québec, the Québec Chief Electoral Officer and the Department of Education, Higher Education and Research.

Parliaments in Elementary School and Parliaments in High School Gala

To reward students for their achievements in their student councils, again this year the foundation awarded prizes during a ceremony held at the Parliament Building, on 30 May 2014.

PRIZES AWARDED TO PARLIAMENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	PRIZES AWARDED TO PARLIAMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL
An Act respecting appropriate language among students École des Petits-Explorateurs (Longueuil)	**An Act respecting outdoor meals** École Internationale Lucille-Teasdale (Brossard)
An Act to create a peaceful and safe schoolyard to combat violence École Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire (Saint-Benoit-Labre)	**An Act to establish friendship and joy of living week** École Sainte-Martine (Sainte-Martine)
An Act to improve security and drop-off and pick-up zone conditions École Vincent-Lemire (Saint-François-du-Lac)	**An Act to implement a dropout prevention program** École secondaire Louis-Jacques-Casault (Montmagny)

RESEARCH CHAIR ON DEMOCRACY AND PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS

Launched in November 2007, the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions is the result of a joint initiative of the National Assembly and Laval University. The National Assembly of the French Republic, the Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Lobbyists Commissioner as well as the CROP polling firm are also Chair partners.

Chaire de recherche sur la démocratie et les institutions parlementaires

The Chair has four objectives:

1. Create a university hub of excellence on democracy and parliamentary institutions;
2. Make parliamentary institutions a specific research, teaching and training subject in political science and the social sciences;
3. Promote the awareness of students about all aspects of parliamentarism in modern democracies;
4. Foster the openness of the parliamentary community concerning its environment.

Its activities include support for research, continuous education and knowledge sharing.

Acknowledgment activity

On 27 November, the President of the Québec National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, greeted the 2014-2015 partners and scholarship recipients of the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions at the National Assembly Library. This was the third event of its kind, which highlights the achievements and projects of the Chair.

Online course on Comparative Parliamentarism (Québec-France)

Following last year's success, the online course on Comparative Parliamentarism (Québec-France) is being offered for the second year in a row. This three-credit course, which is part of Laval University's undergraduate program for political science, is intended for university students and researchers interested in the workings of legislative assemblies, for parliamentarians and for public servants. It is also designed for any person who wants to learn more about the way the democratic process is carried out in Québec and French societies. The dynamic web-based platform provides new insight by comparing both of these parliamentary systems with expert videos and practical exercises that highlight their similarities and distinctive features.

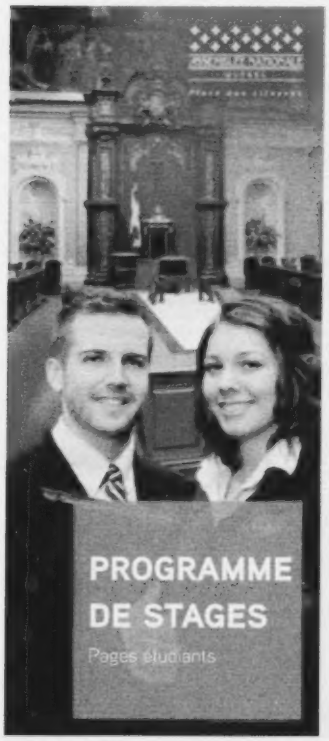
This course is the result of the collaboration between the Québec National Assembly, the French National Assembly and the Research Chair on Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions. It enjoys the collaboration of specialists from each Assembly as well as from Laval University and Sciences Po Bordeaux professors.

In September 2014, 13 students benefitted from this innovative course. Moreover, a tailor-made version for the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques gave 122 more students access to its content, thus providing them with knowledge on parliamentarism as practised in Québec.

COURSE ON PARLIAMENTARY LAW AND PROCEDURE

Laval University and the National Assembly joined forces to set up a course on parliamentary law and procedure. Intended for law, political science, public affairs and international relations students, this course, which is in its 11th year, seeks to instruct them on the various elements of Assembly activities and operations, from the foundations of parliamentary procedure to the legislative and budgetary processes, through to parliamentary privilege, the role of the Chair and the work of the standing committees. This course is complemented by a guided tour of the Parliament Building and a lecture given by the Secretary General.

STUDENT PAGE PROGRAM



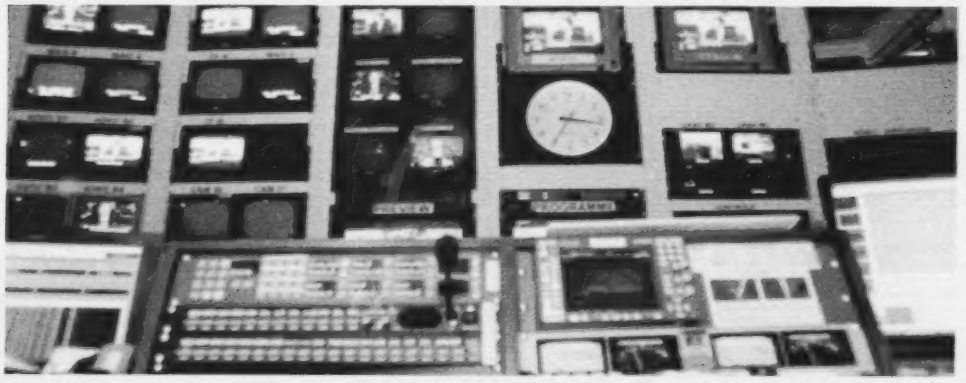
Established in collaboration with Laval University in 2009, the Student Page Program allows undergraduate students of Laval University the possibility of gaining valuable work experience and familiarizing themselves with Québec's parliamentary institutions. The primary role of pages is to answer requests from the President and Vice-Presidents, the Members, their political staff and the clerks, so that they may devote themselves exclusively to their debates and activities in the best of conditions. As such, pages must prepare rooms, distribute documents and ensure written communications between Members and their staff. They must also write a research paper that is recognized by the university.

Fourteen university students began work at the end of August 2014 under the instruction and supervision of the person responsible for the pages and deputy sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Gilles Jourdain. Students taking part in this practical training and directed research program earn six academic credits toward their bachelor's degree.

Television broadcasting

The National Assembly Channel offers live and deferred broadcasting of parliamentary and committee proceedings, press conferences and briefings, educational activities held at the National Assembly, the institution's promotional vignettes, and thematic productions such as the *Mémoires de députés* series. Close to 3,500 hours of programming were broadcast in 2014-2015 by the National Assembly Channel.

These broadcasts are also available on the Assembly website, whose video section provides access to eight live-streaming activities. Once archived, they are available at all times, along with all in-house productions.



Feature programming

Parole aux députés	The purpose of this program is to allow the public to become better acquainted with the 125 Members of the National Assembly's 41st Legislature. Each Member recalls the highlights of his professional career and his motivation to enter politics, and presents his electoral division. The vignettes, lasting one minute and thirty seconds for each Member, are broadcast every Monday at 7.00 p.m., and from Monday to Friday at 7.30 a.m.
125 députés en action	These dynamic 30-second segments inform citizens about the parliamentary duties of each Member.
Mémoires de députés	In 2014-2015, 18 new episodes were added to the *Mémoires de députés* series, thanks to the generous participation of former parliamentarians such as Messrs. Claude Lachance, George Springate, Rémy Trudel, Yvan Bordeleau and Réal Gauvin. This series, in which former Members of the National Assembly recall their experience in politics, is also available on the National Assembly website at the following address: assnat.qc.ca/memoires.
Focus vignettes	The *Focus* vignettes concern parliamentary and institutional news and are broadcast a few hours after the holding of an activity. Some twenty vignettes lasting one minute and thirty seconds were produced during the 2014-2015 fiscal year and notably dealt with the awarding of the Medal of Honour of the National Assembly to various recipients, the Défi Pierre Lavoie caravan and the visit of the President of the French Republic, Mr. François Hollande.
20th anniversary of the Amicale des anciens parlementaires	On the occasion of the *Mémoires de députés* exhibit, a 12-minute documentary on the Amicale des anciens parlementaires (association of former parliamentarians) was produced, presenting the Amicale's history, mission and objectives. Board members were invited to share their experience, as well as former parliamentarians who are now members of this association.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Vision and values of the National Assembly administration

MISSION

The mission of the Assembly administration is to provide all of the necessary services and resources to Members in order to support them in the performance of their duties. Members are called upon to legislate, supervise the public administration and represent their fellow citizens.

VALUES

The administration of the National Assembly supports the statement of values of the public administration of Québec, which is based on competence, impartiality, integrity, loyalty and respect. Within the parliamentary context, it also endorses the following values:

NEUTRALITY: a parliamentary administration focused on service to Members, regardless of political allegiance.

OPENNESS: a parliamentary administration that is ever mindful that the National Assembly must be accessible and inviting to all citizens.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: a parliamentary administration that respects people, the environment and the universal values of sharing and caring.

MODERNITY: a parliamentary administration that encourages diversity in all of its many forms and that incorporates technologies as a means of developing closer ties.

RESPECT FOR HERITAGE: a parliamentary administration that protects and promotes the rich tangible and intangible heritage of the Assembly.

The Office of the National Assembly

The role of the Office of the National Assembly is to oversee and direct the Assembly administration. It must, among other duties, adopt the administrative organization plan of the National Assembly, approve the Assembly's budgetary estimates and regulate matters of immediate concern to Members, such as their allowances and working conditions, as well as those of their staff.

COMPOSITION OF THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

Chair of the Office: Mr. Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis)

Members		
Québec Liberal Party (5)	**Parti québécois (3)**	**Coalition avenir Québec (1)**
Ms. Marguerite Blais (Saint-Henri-Sainte-Anne)	Mr. Harold LeBel (Rimouski)	Ms. Sylvie Roy (Arthabaska)
Ms. Julie Boulet (Laviolette)	Ms. Carole Poirier (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve)	
Mr. Robert Dutil (Beauce-Sud)	Ms. Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)	
Mr. Michel Matte (Portneuf)		
Mr. Marc H. Plante (Maskinongé)		
Substitute Members		
Québec Liberal Party (5)	**Parti québécois (1)**	**Coalition avenir Québec (1)**
Mr. Stéphane Billette (Huntingdon)	Mr. Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque)	Mr. Donald Martel (Nicolet-Bécancour)
Mr. André Fortin (Pontiac)		
Mr. Guy Hardy (Saint-François)		
Mr. Patrick Huot (Vanier-Les Rivières)		
Ms. Karine Vallières (Richmond)		

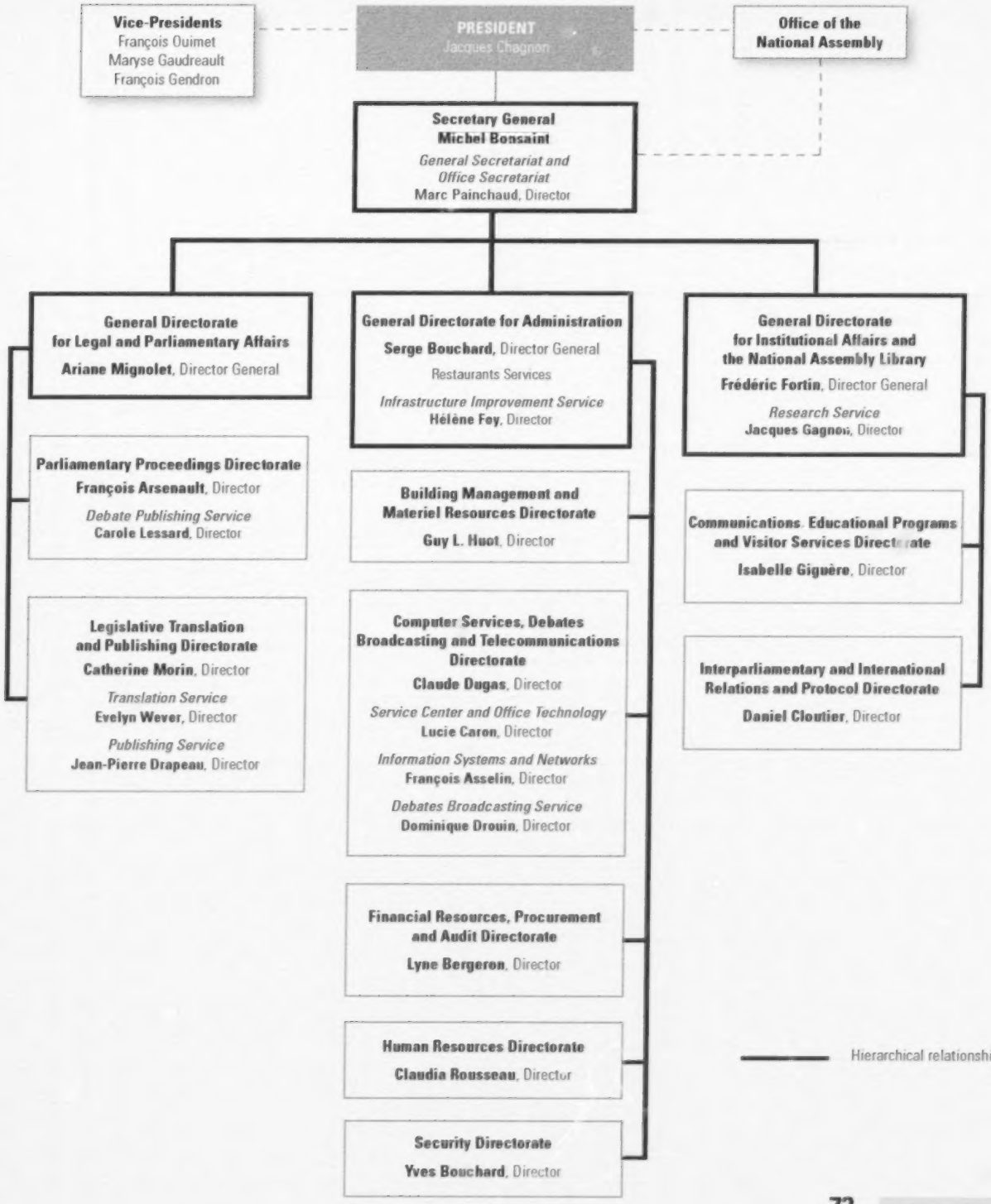
Changes in the administrative structure

The administrative structure underwent certain changes over the past year. Hence, on 2 October 2014, the Associate General Secretariat for Administration became the General Directorate for Administration. The Restaurants Service was integrated into this directorate, as was the recently created Infrastructure Improvement Service.

The changes in the administrative structure were aimed at:

- generating wage bill savings by reorganizing directorates or by eliminating positions subsequent to retirements;
- regrouping similar directorates or services to improve the provision of services to parliamentarians and improve synergy between these directorates;
- offering new challenges to managers by increasing responsibilities.

Administrative Structure as at 31 March 2015



Infrastructure improvement project

The Parliament Building, recognized as a Québec national historic monument in 1985, was built between 1877 and 1886 taking into account the demands of the day. The only extension that was built afterwards was Le Parlementaire restaurant, in 1917. Since then, the needs of parliamentarians and the public have evolved considerably. Furthermore, security is of primary importance nowadays, especially in a global context where public institutions may be targeted.

Evolving security issues have prompted the Office of the National Assembly to examine the way in which they can provide parliamentarians with the means of properly and safely fulfilling their roles and of welcoming citizens who visit the Assembly each year.

It is with this in mind that a functional and technical program (FTP) was ordered in 2012 and tabled in fall 2013, to establish and list requirements and to make proposals that meet these needs. It is based on this FTP that in January 2015, four professional architecture and engineering firms as well as a managing contractor, selected following a tendering process, began preparing plans and specifications for the infrastructure improvement project of the National Assembly.

The project seeks first and foremost to improve security installations, which are outdated. They need to be updated and adapted to the risks associated with a public building such as the Parliament. Risk analyses highlight intervention requirements with regard to security measures for the Parliament Building premises.

Various improvements and work to meet Building Code standards and to ensure the proper conduct of daily activities taking place at the Parliament have also become necessary. Service areas are poorly adapted to safely welcome over 124,000 visitors per year, particularly school groups. The construction of a new reception pavilion allowing universal accessibility to the Parliament Building and improving all visitor services has therefore been planned. The project includes two new committee rooms and multifunctional meeting rooms, which would improve cohesion of parliamentary activities concentrated in one part of the building.

To date, the Office of the National Assembly has authorized $3.5 million for the design of plans and specifications. At the end of the project design phase, a cost estimate and the deadline of the infrastructure improvement project will be confirmed. The beginning of construction work is subject to the approval of the Office of the National Assembly in fall 2015.

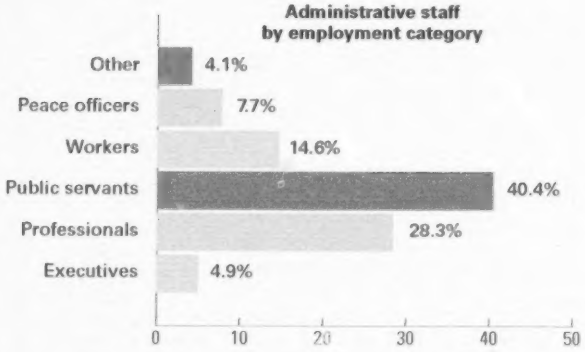
Personnel

To carry out its mission, the National Assembly currently has an administrative staff of 484 regular employees and 192 casual employees.

The political sector, which is composed of executive assistants, political aides, advisors and support staff, totals 500 persons working on Parliament Hill and in Members' constituency offices.

Administrative staff by age group

Administrative staff by employment category



Gender distribution

Women	**51.9%**
Men	**48.1%**

Internships

In an effort to offer emerging professionals a unique work experience within the National Assembly's administration, 36 interns and 35 students were welcomed in 2014-2015 in various directorates. These persons represent interesting candidates for future regular or casual positions.

Training sessions

The Assembly's mission, as previously stated, is to provide support services to Members in their role as legislators and overseers of government action. The Assembly also raises citizen awareness and promotes understanding of the institution and the work of MNAs. It therefore supports professional development training to keep its staff members at the leading edge of their respective areas of activity.

Furthermore, at the beginning of the 41st Legislature, training sessions were organized to help new Members become better acquainted with their role as legislators and overseers of government action. These sessions provide an overview of the various aspects of parliamentary proceedings and the rules that govern them. Equivalent training is also offered to Members' staff so that they may support them in the exercise of their duties.

Also, to allow public service lawyers to complete their mandatory continuing education, the Assembly provides training activities that have been approved by the Québec Bar. Assembly lawyers thus get a better understanding of the National Assembly's role as regards the access to information process and the passage of legislation that they are called upon to draft, put forward or apply.

Moreover, professional development sessions regarding the standing committees and parliamentary procedure were given to the administrative staff of the Assembly. In collaboration with the Sûreté du Québec, tailor-made training on the powers and duties of peace officers was also dispensed to the Assembly's special constables. Finally, certain employees took part in training sessions on the National Assembly's protocol.

Over a quarter century of commitment

On 4 December 2014, a reception was held at Le Parlementaire restaurant to celebrate the dedication of nineteen employees who have worked as public servants for 25 years and of three who have worked in the public service for 40 years.

Their years of dedication to public service were acknowledged during this ceremony. These are their names: Mmes Suzie Bernard, Brigitte Bourgault, Louisette Cameron, Lise Charron, Caroline Côté, France Doré, Myriam Gilot, France Guillemette, Linda Papillon, Hélène Rangers, Michèle Rioux, Suzanne Rouleau and Johanne Tremblay; Messrs. Michel Arcand, Michel Bonsaint, Jacques Dufour, Denis M. Gagnon, Gilbert Lavoie and Daniel Samson. As for those having 40 years of services, they are: Mmes Lise Déry and Diane Chamberland as well as Mr. Pierre Sansfaçon.

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, and the Secretary General, Mr. Michel Bonsaint, as well as several other guests attended the ceremony.

First row, from left to right: Mr. Michel Bonsaint, Mmes Myriam Gilot, France Guillemette, Hélène Rangers, Brigitte Bourgault, Suzanne Rouleau and Lise Charron, Mr. Pierre Sansfaçon, Ms. Michèle Rioux and Mr. Jacques Chagnon.

Second row, from left to right: Messrs. Gilbert Lavoie, Daniel Samson and Jacques Dufour, Mmes Johanne Tremblay and Linda Papillon, Mr. Michel Arcand, as well as Mmes Suzie Bernard, France Doré and Caroline Côté.

The administration at a glance

Several projects are carried out each year within the National Assembly administration. Below are some of the projects completed in 2014-2015.

Hosting of the 41st Annual Conference of the Hansard Association of Canada

During the festivities underlining the *Journal des débats'* golden jubilee, the National Assembly welcomed the participants of the 41st Annual Conference of the Hansard Association of Canada, from 18 to 22 August 2014. This association promotes professionalism in the production of the official report of debates (Hansard) in the legislatures of Canada. Some forty delegates hailing from Canada, Wales and the United Kingdom attended the Québec City conference.

The participants of the 41st Annual Conference of the Hansard Association of Canada

Maintenance work

The André-Laurendeau Building's limestone and granite walls were restored. The purpose of this work was to clean and repair this ten-storey building's masonry surfaces. In total, over 300 stones were replaced.

Furthermore, the final phase of the Parliament Building's office renovation project, initiated in 2005, was completed. It consisted in the renovation of the President's and the Second Vice-President's offices.

Implementation of the SAGIR self-service system

The SAGIR self-service system for employees and managers was launched on 19 May 2014. This human resources management tool allows users to fill online leave of absence forms, timesheets and changes in personal information, and to have access to employment-related information. Online training on how to use this tool was available to the administrative staff. The Parliament Gardens

For a second straight year, the National Assembly has innovated with its edible garden, woodland garden and tropical garden arrangements in the front of the Parliament Building. Created through the collaborative efforts of Université Laval and Les Urbainculteurs, these gardens allowed visitors to appreciate various examples of urban agriculture, an increasingly popular practice around the world. Over 200 varieties of fruit trees, fruits and vegetables, herbs, trees and flowers were planted according to organic agriculture principles. This project is in keeping with the action plan for sustainable development adopted by the Assembly in 2009.

Again this year, visitors were able to benefit from the pick-your-own system in some of the in-ground garden bed plots. The remaining harvest was given to Le Parlementaire restaurant, thus providing an opportunity for the most discriminating palates to continue their garden experience at the National Assembly restaurant.

The Assembly also took part in the Urban Honey project, in collaboration with Miellerie de Champlain, which installed beehives on the roof of Jean-Antoine-Panet Building. The harvested honey was given to Le Parlementaire restaurant and the surplus was sold at the National Assembly gift shop.

A chef in residence at Le Parlementaire restaurant

Proud partners of Québec's new generation of professionals, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Jacques Chagnon, Executive Chef Yves Légaré and Executive Sous-Chef Renée Lévesque welcomed Mr. Samuel Aubry-Gagnon, the new chef in residence of Le Parlementaire restaurant. Together, all three chefs are called upon to establish a distinctive culinary vision to redefine the restaurant's cuisine. They are also committed to highlighting the diversity and variety of products from Québec's regions, including those from the Parliament's urban agriculture.

From left to right: the executive chef of Le Parlementaire restaurant, Yves Légaré, the new chef in residence, Samuel Aubry-Gagnon, and the executive sous-chef, Renée Lévesque.

Use of appropriations allocated to the National Assembly in 2014-2015

	Appropriations used* ($000)
GENERAL SECRETARIAT	
Office of the Secretary General	1,069.5
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS	
General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	1,297.8
Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate	3,264.8
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	558.0
	5,120.6
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY	
General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library	5,064.9
Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate	2,493.0
Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate	3,241.7
	10,799.6
GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR ADMINISTRATION	
General Directorate for Administration	1,764.0
Restaurants Service	1,668.1
Building Management and Material Resources Directorate	14,565.1
Computer Services, Debates Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate	8,630.0
Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,431.6
Human Resources Directorate	11,029.1
Security Directorate	5,188.4
	44,276.3
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	67,673.3
APPROPRIATIONS USED	129,939.3
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	6,223.2

* The appropriations used include fixed assets, salaries, operations, advances and transfers.

APPENDICES

Bills Passed

List of abbreviations:

CNA:	Committee on the National Assembly
CPA:	Committee on Public Administration
CAFENR:	Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Energy and Natural Resources
CPP:	Committee on Planning and the Public Domain
CCE:	Committee on Culture and Education
CLE:	Committee on Labour and the Economy
CPF:	Committee on Public Finance
CI:	Committee on Institutions
CW:	Committee of the Whole
CCR:	Committee on Citizen Relations
CHSS:	Committee on Health and Social Services
CTE:	Committee on Transportation and the Environment

LIST OF GOVERNMENT BILLS PASSED:

1	CPP	An Act respecting the inspector general of Ville de Montréal (Vote: Yeas 106, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 – passed unanimously) (spring 2014)
2	CCR	An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act (Vote: Yeas 90, Nays 20, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (fall 2014)
3	CPP	An Act to foster the financial health and sustainability of municipal defined benefit pension plans (Vote: Yeas 85, Nays 28 Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (fall 2014)
4	CPF	An Act to amend the Act authorizing the making of collective agreements with a term of more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors (passed unanimously) (spring 2014)
5	CAFENR	An Act to amend the Act to limit oil and gas activities and other legislative provisions (passed on division) (spring 2014)
7	CW	An Act to ratify the agreement relating to the conduct of proceedings in the National Assembly and in parliamentary committees as well as to parliamentary offices and budgetary aspects for the duration of the 41st Legislature (passed unanimously) (spring 2014)

8	CLE	An Act to amend the Labour Code with respect to certain employees of farming businesses (Vote: Yeas 78, Nays 25, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (fall 2014)
9	CW	Appropriation Act No. 1, 2014-2015 (Vote: Yeas 60, Nays 47 Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (spring 2014)
10	CHSS	An Act to modify the organization and governance of the health and social services network, in particular by abolishing the regional agencies (Vote: Yeas 62, Nays 50, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (spring 2015)
11	CAFENR	An Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord (passed on division) (fall 2014)
12	CPF	An Act respecting the implementation of recommendations by the pension committee of certain pension plans in the public sector and amending various legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
14	CI	An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure and other provisions (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
15	CPF	An Act respecting workforce management and control within government departments, public sector bodies and networks and state-owned enterprises (Vote: Yeas 82, Nays 26, Abstentions 0 – passed on division) (fall 2014)
16	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles and other provisions (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
17	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec, the Notaries Act and the Professional Code (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
19	CLE	An Act to amend the Cooperatives Act and other legislative provisions (passed unanimously) (spring 2015)
21	CI	An Act respecting mainly the implementation of agreements on labour matters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
22	CLE	An Act to address the findings of the panel established under the Agreement on Internal Trade regarding sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Food Products Act (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)

23	CPP	An Act to amend the Charter of Ville de Montréal as concerns the composition of the executive committee (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
25	CTE	An Act to transfer the responsibility for issuing road vehicle dealer's and recycler's licences to the president of the Office de la protection du consommateur (passed unanimously) (spring 2015)
26	CI	An Act to ensure mainly the recovery of amounts improperly paid as a result of fraud or fraudulent tactics in connection with public contracts *(modified title)* (Vote: Yeas 109, Nays 0, Abstentions 0 – passed unanimously) (spring 2015)
30	CPF	An Act respecting mainly the suspension of payment of bonuses in the context of budget-balancing measures (passed unanimously) (spring 2015)
31	CW	An Act to extend the term of the person designated to temporarily act as Chief Electoral Officer (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
40	CW	Appropriation Act No. 1, 2015-2016 (passed on division) (spring 2015)
52	CHSS	An Act respecting end-of-life care (Vote: Yeas 94, Nays 22, Abstentions 0 passed on division) (spring 2014)

LIST OF PRIVATE BILLS PASSED:

200	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Lac-Simon (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
201	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Westmount (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
202	CPP	An Act respecting the Régie intermunicipale de valorisation des matières organiques de Beauharnois-Salaberry et de Roussillon (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)
203	CCE	An Act respecting the sale of an immovable situated on the La Grave heritage site (passed unanimously) (fall 2014)

Mandates carried out by the standing committees or in progress in 2014-2015

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Selection of the Members to serve on the standing committees and approval of the list of temporary chairs

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Hearing of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning

- The governance and management of major infrastructure projects of the Agence métropolitaine de transport (Chapter 4 of the Auditor General's fall 2013 report)
- Prescription drugs and pharmaceutical services (Chapter 6 of the Auditor General's spring 2014 report)
- The implementation and operation of service areas (Chapter 2 of the Auditor General's spring 2014 report)
- The Green Fund's management and financial assistance (Chapter 4 of the Sustainable Development Commissioner's spring 2014 report)
- The acquisitions of goods and services (Chapter 3 of the Auditor General's spring 2014 report)
- The administrative management of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
- The administrative management of the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux
- The Auditor General's 2013-2014 annual management report
- The 2012-2014 report on the application of the Public Administration Act
- The administrative management of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
- The administrative management of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux

Other orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chairs
- Election of the Committee chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Orders of reference

- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Act to limit oil and gas activities and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 11, An Act respecting the Société du Plan Nord
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Chauveau to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources on the following subject: The political decisions that lead to an unjustified increase in electricity rates

Orders of initiative

- Examination of the policy directions, orientations, activities and administrative management of the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec
- Analysis of the farmland grabbing phenomenon

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Orders of reference

- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1, An Act respecting the inspector general of Ville de Montréal
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 3, An Act to foster the financial health and sustainability of municipal defined benefit pension plans
- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 23, An Act to amend the Charter of Ville de Montréal as concerns the composition of the executive committee
- Hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 200, An Act respecting Municipalité de Lac-Simon
- Hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 201, An Act respecting Ville de Westmount
- Hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 202, An Act respecting the Régie intermunicipale de valorisation des matières organiques de Beauharnois-Salaberry et de Roussillon
- Hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 204, An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Joseph-de-Sorel
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure

Statutory order

- Examination of the reports on the implementation of the Municipal Ethics and Good Conduct Act

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Gaspé to the Minister for Transport and the Implementation of the Maritime Strategy on the following subject: The Liberal Government's offensive against the regions of Québec: sustained action against local and regional development

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

Orders of reference

- Hear the interested parties and give clause-by-clause consideration to Private Bill 203, An Act respecting the sale of an immovable situated on the La Grave heritage site
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure

Statutory order

- Hearing of the heads of the university-level educational institutions

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Pointe-aux-Trembles to the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports on the following subject: The irresponsible statements, trial balloons and cutbacks in services by the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports

Orders of initiative

- Examination of the petition concerning sex education classes
- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Orders of reference

- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 8, An Act to amend the Labour Code with respect to certain employees of farming businesses
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 19, An Act to amend the Cooperatives Act and other legislative provisions
- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 22, An Act to address the findings of the panel established under the Agreement on Internal Trade regarding sections 7.1 and 7.2 of the Food Products Act
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 34, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act with respect to the funding and restructuring of certain multi-employer pension plans
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Saint-Jean to the Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity on the following subject: Closure of the youth employment centres: the abandonment of young people by a visionless Liberal Government

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Orders of reference

- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 4, An Act to amend the Act authorizing the making of collective agreements with a term of more than three years in the public and parapublic sectors
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 12, An Act respecting the implementation of recommendations by the pension committee of certain pension plans in the public sector and amending various legislative provisions
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 15, An Act respecting workforce management and control within government departments, public sector bodies and networks and state-owned enterprises
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 28, An Act mainly to implement certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 4 June 2014 and return to a balanced budget in 2015-2016
- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 30, An Act respecting mainly the suspension of payment of bonuses in the context of budget-balancing measures
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chairs
- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Sanguinet to the Chair of the Conseil du trésor on the following subject: The Liberal Government's objective of reducing Québec's basket of public services to that of the Canadian average
- Continuation of the debate on the Budget Speech

Order of initiative

- The tax havens phenomenon

Orders of reference

- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 14, An Act to amend the Code of Civil Procedure and other provisions
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 17, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec, the Notaries Act and the Professional Code
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 21, An Act respecting mainly the implementation of agreements on labour matters between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 26, An Act to ensure mainly the recovery of amounts improperly paid as a result of fraud or fraudulent tactics in connection with public contracts *(modified title)*
- Clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 33, An Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure
- General consultation and public hearings on the policy paper entitled "Orientations gouvernementales pour un gouvernement plus transparent, dans le respect du droit à la vie privée et la protection des renseignements personnels"

Statutory order

- Examination of the report on the implementation of the Act to amend the Highway Safety Code and the Code of Penal Procedure as regards the collection of fines

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Chicoutimi and Leader of the Official Opposition to the Premier on the following subject: The advantages of Québec sovereignty
- Hear the Public Protector
- Hear the Chief Electoral Officer

Orders of initiative

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Coroner
- Hear Hydro-Québec on the possibility of its becoming subject to the Public Protector's power of intervention
- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Anti-Corruption Commissioner
- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the 18 reintegration support funds established in Québec correctional facilities
- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the Advisory Committee of the Fonds central de soutien à la réinsertion sociale

COMMITTEE ON CITIZEN RELATIONS

Orders of reference

- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 2, An Act to amend the Educational Childcare Act
- Special consultations on Bill 27, An Act respecting the optimization of subsidized educational childcare services
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure
- Special consultations on the paper entitled "Towards a New Québec Policy on Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion" and the related documents
- Special consultations on the report on the implementation of the 2008–2013 Government Action Plan concerning Sexual Assault

Statutory orders

- Examination of the reports on the activities of the Fonds de soutien aux proches aidants and those of the Société de gestion L'Appui national for the fiscal years ended 31 March 2011, 2012 and 2013
- Examination of the reports on the activities of the Fonds pour le développement des jeunes enfants and those of the Société de gestion Avenir d'enfants for the fiscal years ended 31 March 2011, 2012 and 2013

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for Repentigny to the Minister of Families on the following subject: The Liberal Government's lack of vision as regards the future of the childcare services network
- Interpellation by the Member for Borduas to the Minister of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusiveness on the following subject: Québec's immigration policy

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Orders of reference

- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 10, An Act to modify the organization and governance of the health and social services network, in particular by abolishing the regional agencies
- Special consultations on Bill 20, An Act to enact the Act to promote access to family medicine and specialized medicine services and to amend various legislative provisions relating to assisted procreation
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure

Statutory orders

- Examination of the 2013-2014 annual reports of the following health and social services agencies: Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Capitale-Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches, Côte-Nord, Estrie, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Lanaudière, Laurentides, Laval, Mauricie et Centre-du-Québec, Montérégie, Montréal, Outaouais, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, and of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services
- Examination of the 2013-2014 annual management report of the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair
- Election of the Committee vice-chair
- Interpellation by the Member for La Peltrie to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the following subject: Access to health care in the health and social services system and the Liberals' performance over the last ten years
- Interpellation by the Member for Verchères to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the following subject: The CHUM crisis caused by the Health and Social Services Minister's behaviour

Order of initiative

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and management of the health and social services agencies for Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Côte-Nord, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and of the Centre régional de santé et de services sociaux de la Baie-James

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Orders of reference

- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 16, An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles and other provisions
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 25, An Act to transfer the responsibility for issuing road vehicle dealer's and recycler's licences to the president of the Office de la protection du consommateur
- Special consultations and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 32, An Act to amend the Act respecting compensation measures for the carrying out of projects affecting wetlands or bodies of water in order to extend its application
- Examination of the 2014-2015 estimates of expenditure
- Special consultations on the draft revised Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2015–2020

Statutory orders

- Examination of the report entitled "Rapport d'évaluation 2013, cinémomètres photographiques et systèmes photographiques de contrôle de circulation aux feux rouges"
- Examination of the report by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec on Automobile Advertising Guidelines

Orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

- Election of the Committee chair and vice-chair

Order of initiative

- Examination of the policy directions, activities and administrative management of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ)

Wage bill, allowances and expenses of Members for 2014-2015

WAGE BILL OF MEMBERS

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$12,590,884

ALLOWANCES

Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for travel in the electoral division and elsewhere in Québec	$3,239,429
Transition allowances (includes allowances paid when Member leaves)	$3,347,278
Travel from the electoral division to the Parliament Building	$1,027,966
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,654,524
Additional allowance for the purchase of office furniture and equipment during the first term of office	$67,646
Constituency office operation expenses	$5,710,454

EXPENSES

	Staff of Members	Office staff of House officers	Total
Wage bill	$13,946,128	$7,508,852	$21,454,980
Travel expenses	$511,054	$332,820	$843,874
Research services of political parties			$2,576,485

Mandates of the administrative units

The **Secretary General** is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and Members in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, administers day-to-day affairs and carries out all other duties assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

The **General Secretariat and Office Secretariat Directorate** assists the Secretary General in day-to-day office management tasks, coordinates and carries out institutional and administrative mandates and projects, liaises with Members' offices and the administrative branches, and advises the Secretary General in matters related to information security. Furthermore, it provides the professional expertise and technical support needed to prepare and follow-up on meetings of the Office, and updates the administrative rules of the Office. It also advises MNAs and their personnel on their working conditions. Lastly, it ensures the development and implementation of the National Assembly's strategic plan and sustainable development policy directions.

The **General Directorate for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs** advises the National Assembly authorities in legal matters and provides professional expertise on the drafting of Private Members' public bills and private bills. It coordinates, plans and supervises the activities of the administrative units of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his advisory role with respect to Assembly and committee proceedings.

The **Parliamentary Proceedings Directorate** prepares, sees to the orderly conduct of, and follows up on Assembly and committee proceedings, and coordinates all transcription, revision and editing activities for the production of the Journal des débats (Hansard). It publishes, in French and in English, the Order Paper and Notices and the Votes and Proceedings for every sitting, as well as the Standing Orders and Other Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly.

The **Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate** provides all professional and technical services with respect to the translation, revision, publishing and printing of bills and translates and revises administrative and other texts.

The **General Directorate for Administration** plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative units under its authority. These provide services with respect to human resources, financial resources, procurement and audit, building management and material resources, computer services, debates broadcasting and telecommunications, security, infrastructure improvements and food service.

The **Building Management and Material Resources Directorate** is responsible for any construction, renovation, conservation, restoration, lay-out and maintenance work in or on the Assembly's buildings, and for furnishings and signage. It coordinates and monitors activities related to the following services: mail, courier, printing, reprography, office supplies and equipment and the distribution of parliamentary documents.

The **Computer Services, Debate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Directorate** is responsible for broadcasting parliamentary proceedings, press conferences and special activities in addition to producing audiovisual and multimedia education material. It advises the authorities on directions and policies in the area of information technologies and contributes to development strategies for new technologies. It provides services and the necessary support in the areas of computer technology, office automation and telecommunications.

The **Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate** coordinates and supervises activities relating to budget preparation and follow-up, the recording of transactions, and procurement. It advises and assists Assembly authorities and directors in the areas of finance and procurement.

The **Human Resources Directorate** advises Assembly authorities and directors with regard to administrative organization, personnel management, job evaluation and classification, and work organization. It carries out activities relating to work organization, staffing, personnel management, labour relations, remuneration, the interpretation of the working conditions of Members and political and administrative personnel, occupational health and safety and professional development.

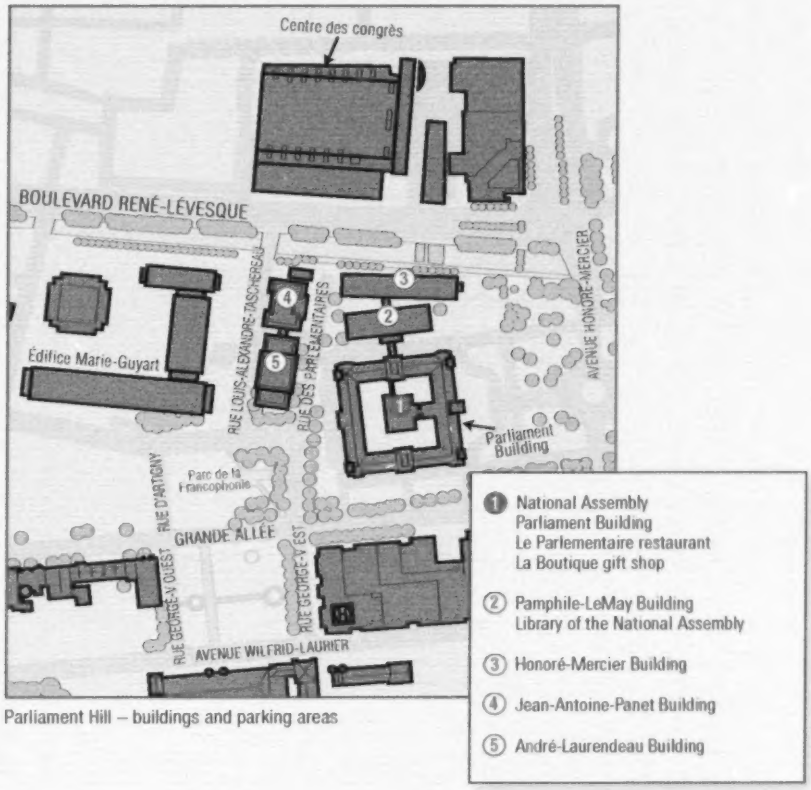
The **Security Directorate** ensures the protection of persons, buildings and property on Assembly premises, thus allowing it to ensure the proper conduct of parliamentary proceedings. It advises Assembly authorities on preventive and protective measures to be taken regarding security at the Parliament Building and in the riding offices. It monitors risks particularly through threat detection. In this regard, it informs authorities on all events of interest regarding parliamentary security.

The **General Directorate for Institutional Affairs and the National Assembly Library** provides professional and technical services with respect to communications, educational activities, protocol, welcoming of visitors, and interparliamentary and international relations. Its mission is also to meet documentary and research needs of parliamentarians and the administrative units of the Assembly. To do this, it provides reference, research, document management and archives services.

The **Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate** promotes the National Assembly's outreach and advises the authorities and administrative units on communication and public relations. In addition to this, it provides services in graphic design and editing, drafting, revision, Web communication as well as an information service to the media. It also is responsible for the social media used by the Assembly. Moreover, it coordinates the production of educational programs and provides technical support for parliamentary simulations. In conjunction with the Debates Broadcasting Service, it develops and coordinates the production of audiovisual and multimedia material. Furthermore, it provides visitor and information services as well as guided tours of the Parliament Building and manages the Assembly's gift shop.

The **Interparliamentary and International Relations and Protocol Directorate** advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the National Assembly in this area. Moreover, it provides protocol services for the Assembly and prepares and oversees official ceremonies. It also acts as a protocol advisor to the President, the Members and outside organizations.

SOME PRACTICAL **INFORMATION**



Parliament Hill – buildings and parking areas

National Assembly
Hôtel du Parlement
1045, rue des Parlementaires
Québec (Québec) G1A 1A3

General information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS
(1 866 337-8837)
Fax: 418 646-4271
Email: renseignements@assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS

Regular hours*
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours (24 June to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 24 June, 1 July and Labour Day, 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Outdoor guided tours are also available

Reservations are required for groups of more than 10 people.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Fax: 418 646-4271
Email: renseignements@assnat.qc.ca

LE PARLEMENTAIRE RESTAURANT

Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*
This schedule may vary in summer.

Reservations
Telephone: 418 643-6640
Fax: 418 643-6378
Email: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE

Regular hours*
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Summer hours (24 June to Labour Day)
Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-8785
Fax: 418 528-6022
Email: boutique@assnat.qc.ca

* Subject to change without notice

Communications, Educational Programs and Visitor Services Directorate
Reprography and Printing Division
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ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

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